

SELECTIONS  
FROM  
THE RECORDS  
OF  
THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

---

Published by Authority.

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N<sup>o</sup>. III.

PAPERS

ON

THE SETTLEMENT OF CUTTACK,

AND

ON THE STATE OF THE

TRIBUTARY MEHALS.



W. PALMER, MILITARY ORPILAN PRESS.

1851.

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P A P E R S

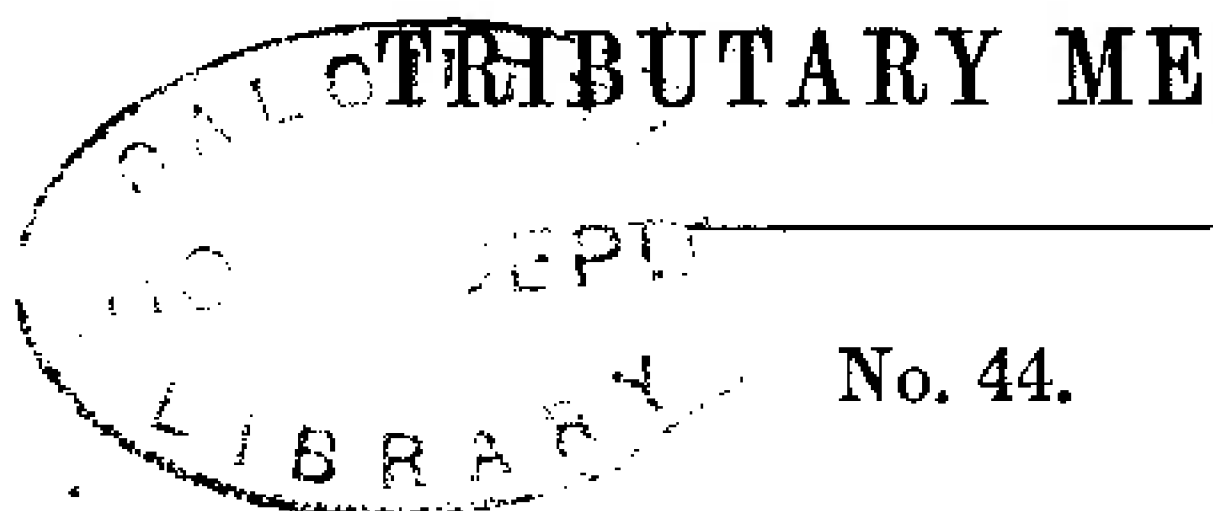
ON

THE SETTLEMENT OF CUTTACK,

AND

ON THE STATE OF THE

TRIBUTARY MEHALS.



FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,  
LOWER PROVINCES,  
To J. P. GRANT, Esq.,  
*Secretary to the Government of Bengal,*  
*Revenue Department.*  
*Dated Fort William, the 10th January, 1851.*

SIR,

MIS. DEPT.

*Present:*

E. M. Gordon }  
and } Esquires.  
H. Ricketts, }

The completion of the Settlement of the Province of Cuttack, embracing the three Districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Pooree, not having at any time been reported for the information of the Government, the Board, in April last, called for a report of the out-turn of the Settlement of each of the above Districts, shewing the increase and decrease of sudder jumma, the jumma obtained by resumptions, the aggregate area, cultivated and uncultivated, the rate of hustabood assessment per acre, the rate of sudder jumma per acre, the proportion of lands held by Mokuddums or Surburakars whose tenures are liable to sale for arrears, the proportion held by other middle-men, the proportion held ryotwarree, and any other information which the settlement records might afford.

2nd. The Statistics called for have now been furnished in a tabulated form by the Commissioner with his letter of the 7th ultimo, No. 2591, a copy of which and of its enclosures, is herewith forwarded. The Board beg to recommend that the statement, together with the accompanying extract\* from a Minute recorded by Mr. Mills when on the eve of leaving Cuttack, be printed, as containing valuable information relative to that Province.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,  
(Signed) GEO. PLOWDEN,

*Secretary.*

---

No. 2591.

FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE, CUTTACK DIVISION,  
TO THE SECRETARY TO THE SUDDER BOARD OF REVENUE,  
FORT WILLIAM.

*Dated Cuttack, the 7th December, 1850.*

SIR,

MISCELLANEOUS. With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin,\* I have now

Board to Commissioner, No. 93, dated 23rd April 1850.  
Ditto to Ditto, ..... No. 274, dated 5th July 1850.  
Commissioner to Board, No. 1528, dated 17th July 1850.  
Board to Commissioner, No. 155, dated 9th August 1850.  
Commissioner to Board, No. 1780, dated 19th August 1850.

the honor to submit a  
General Statement of  
the out-turn of the  
Settlement of this Pro-

vince, drawn up in the form indicated in my letter, No. 1780, of the 19th August last, which seems to embrace all the information the Board require.

2nd. The only Collector who has furnished a separate report on the subject is Mr. Garrett, whose letter, No. 146, of the 4th instant, is also submitted for the Board's perusal.

3rd. The settlement having been completed long before I assumed charge of the Division, it would be presumptuous in me to add any thing to the lucid exposition given in Mr. Mills' Minute of the 23rd of January 1847, a copy of which is with the Board; I have therefore refrained from giving what would at best be but an imperfect account of the proceedings of my predecessors.

---

\* The whole Minute is printed.



4th. The Board will, no doubt, be struck with the extent to which the practice of sub-dividing Estates has been carried in Cuttack, and it seems to be a matter for serious consideration whether the security of the Public Revenue will not be affected, in the end, by this breaking up of large Zemindaries into minute portions. It will be seen that there are some Estates in Cuttack paying a sudder jumma of one anna.

5th. I cannot agree with Mr. Garrett in his proposal for abolishing the office of Putwarree.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) F. GOULDSBURY,

*Commissioner.*

*Office of Commissioner, 19th Division.*

---

No. 146.

FROM THE COLLECTOR OF CUTTACK,

TO F. GOULDSBURY, Esq.,

*Commissioner, 19th Division, Cuttack.*

*Cuttack Collectorate, dated 4th December, 1850.*

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the accompanying Statement of the out-turn of the Settlement in the Central Division of Cuttack, called for in your letter, No. 926, dated 3rd May last.

2nd. The District contains 75 Pergunnahs, in which are comprehended 1658 separate Mehals, which have been multiplied by butwarrah into 2394 Estates, paying sudder jummas varying in amount from 1 anna the lowest, to rupees 26,793-2-7 the highest, and containing 11,585 villages, and in addition to the above, there are 23 tributary Mehals, paying a peshkushee or fixed tribute.

\* Including confirmed  
Lakheraj 1,26,290 ac., 1 r.,  
12 p.

3rd. The area of the District contains 12,51,037-3-3 \* English acres in the Mogul-bundee, or that portion which has been subjected to settlement operations, and of this, acres 5,84,015-3-20 are in a state of

cultivation, acres 35,659-1-36 are culturable waste, and acres 5,05,072-0-15 jungle and incapable of cultivation.

4th. The mofussil jumma assessed on the cultivated and culturable area amounts to Company's rupees 11,58,936-10-2½, or rupees 1-13-11 per acre, the proportion of which held by Mokuddums or Surburakars, other middle-men and ryots, is shewn in the Statement.

5th. The sudder jumma payable to Government, according to the settlement, amounts to rupees 7,19,343-6-7¾, shewing an average deduction from the mofussil jumma of about 38 per cent.

6th. A memorandum of the number of cases of different kinds which have been decided in favor of the claimants, during the progress of, and since the settlement, is subjoined.

Description of Tenures.	Number of Cases.	Quantity of Land.			Mofussil Jumma.		
		A.	R.	P.			
Mokuddumee and Suburakaree,... ..	757	50,431	0	10	1,15,493	5	3½
Pudhanee, ... ..	2	133	2	0	229	0	8¾
Poorsettee, ... ..	9	550	1	0	752	8	3
Khurreeda Jummabundee, ... ..	8,307	21,020	3	20	32,053	1	9¾
Tunkee, ... ..	384	6,944	1	14	4,812	8	6¼
Aimah, ... ..	66	983	1	19	1,392	12	4¼
Shikmee, ... ..	24	1,532	2	0	3,058	13	5

7th. The number of cases which have been instituted under the Resumption Laws is as follows :

	Number of Cases.	Quantity of Land.			Mofussil Jumma.			Sudder Jumma.		
		A.	R.	P.						
Resumed Lakheraj,	79,597	89,237	3	21	74,396	7	2	40,272	0	5¾
Confirmed Lakheraj,	73,252	1,26,290	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0

8th. During the years 1840-41 and 1841-42 the District suffered very severely from want of rain, causing a general failure in the harvest, which induced the Government to concede large remissions, as shewn in the annexed table.

Year.	Total number of Mehals not settled at the time of remission.							Total number of Mehals settled at the time of remission.							Total.						
	No. of Mehals.	Sudder Jumma.			Remission.			No. of Mehals.	Sudder Jumma.			Remission.			No. of Mehals.	Sudder Jumma.			Remission.		
1840-41	1,080	5,82,342	2	7	2,99,975	6	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	458	1,60,119	2	0	73,131	9	4	1,538	7,42,461	4	7	3,73,106	15	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
1841-42	835	4,67,978	8	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,41,423	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	703	2,74,907	0	11	67,866	9	0	1,538	7,42,885	9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,09,289	12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Since the above period there has been no remission of Revenue on account of calamities of season granted to the proprietors of any settled Estates.

9th. There has been a considerable increase during the last three years in the number of Mehals sold for arrears of Government Revenue as detailed below.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>No. of Mehals sold.</i>
1840-41 .....	4
1841-42 .....	0*
1842-43 .....	6
1843-44 .....	7
1844-45 .....	3
1845-46 .....	3
1846-47 .....	8
1847-48 .....	18
1848-49 .....	19
1849-50 .....	20

and at the sale for the realization of the 8th punnee kist of the year 1257, held in June last, 6 Mehals were sold, making a total of 94 Mehals, in connexion with which the following information is submitted.

Number of Mehals.	Sudder Jumma.	Balance for which the Estates were sold.	Amount price bid for the Estates.	Rate on the Sudder Jumma.
94	73,473 11 5½	28,245 15 5½	3,31,085 0 0	4½ times the sudder jumma of the Estates.

10th. There have been 7,334 summary suits instituted under the provisions of Regulation VIII. of 1831 for the recovery of rent during the ten years from 1840-41 to the present time, and in execution of decrees the following dependant tenures have been brought to the hammer with the results as exhibited.

Number of Mehals.	Jumma.	Balance for which the tenures were sold.	Amount price of tenure.	Rate on the Jumma.
56	9,449 4 6	7,703 13 11	14,195 0 0	1½ times the sudder jumma of the Mehal.

\* Six were sold, but the sales were afterwards reversed.

A detail of the above cases is subjoined :—

In 1840-41	.....	829
1841-42	.....	793
1842-43	.....	547
1843-44	.....	866
1844-45	.....	1093
1845-46	.....	1041
1846-47	.....	508
1847-48	.....	537
1848-49	.....	422
1849-50	.....	415
to November 1850	.....	333

11th. Under the provisions of Regulation V. of 1812, 2,528 cases have been instituted before the Revenue Authorities to contest claims for arrears, as per annexed detail :—

In 1840-41	.....	156
1841-42	.....	179
1842-43	.....	414
1843-44	.....	270
1844-45	.....	306
1845-46	.....	283
1846-47	.....	155
1847-48	.....	238
1848-49	.....	265
1849-50	.....	156
to November 1850	.....	106

12th. The settlement proceedings provide 102 Putwarrees with acres 2,853-0-20 in jagheer, yielding an estimated jumma of rupees 3,672 or about 36 rupees annually to each individual. I do not see the advantage of keeping up this class of servants, and would recommend the abolition of the office, and the amalgamation of their lands with the parent Estate on its proper assessment ; if Putwarrees are necessary at all, they are so in every Estate of any extent, and in Cuttack we have 102 of them distributed over 2,394 Estates.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. B. GARRETT,  
Collector.

*Zillah Cuttack, the 4th December 1850.*



*General Statement of the Out-turn of the Settlement of the Province of Cuttack.*

DISTRICT.	Former Sudder Jumma.		Present Sudder Jumma.		Increase.		Decrease.		Jumma of Resumptions.		Aggregate Area cultivated.		Aggregate Area uncultivated.		Rate of Hustbood Assessment per Acre.		Proportion of lands held by Mokuddums or Surburakars, which tenures are liable to sale for arrears.		Proportion held by middle-men.		Proportion held Ryot-warree.		The rate of Sudder Jumma per Acre.		REMARKS.
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	Rs.	A. P.	A.	R. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	A.	R. P.	
Cuttack, .....	Mogulbundee Estate.																								
	7,46,001	11 0	7,19,343	6 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	61,208	8 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	87,866	13 2	40,272	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	5,84,015	3 20	35,659	1 36	1 13 11	51,114	3 13	1,19,718	3 30	4,48,841	2 13	0	0 0		
	Tributary Estates.																								
	1,04,329	9 9	1,01,576	0 0	.....	.....	2,753	9 9																	
Total,.....	8,50,331	4 9	8,20,919	6 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	61,208	8 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	90,620	6 11																	
Pooree, .....	4,50,660	2 9	4,69,278	4 4	58,399	12 2	39,781	10 7	40,038	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	4,48,497	0 31 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,68,532	1 32 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 0	3,02,334	3 27 $\frac{1}{2}$	15,997	3 33	6,62,919	1 36 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Balasore.																									
Settled Mehals, ...	3,41,332	7 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,83,498	3 2	73,853	6 5	31,687	10 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	35,433	14 8	4,64,763	3 11	1,07,943	2 11	1 5 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	85,269	2 17	1,08,870	3 18	2,70,623	1 14	0	0 0		
* Unsettled Mehals,	1,725	1 2	1,725	1 2	.....	.....	.....	.....																	
Total,.....	3,43,057	8 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,85,223	4 4	73,853	6 5	31,687	10 5 $\frac{1}{2}$																	
Tributary Estates,	4,968	3 5	4,968	3 5	.....	.....	.....	.....																	
Grand Total).....	3,48,025	11 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,90,191	7 9	73,853	6 5	31,687	10 5 $\frac{1}{2}$																	

The net increase of Revenue obtained by Settlement is Co.'s Rs. 42,165-11-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The average rate of sudder jumma per acre is Co.'s Rs. 0-13 As. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Pie.  
 \* These Mehals are Killahs Ambo Mungulpore, and Putnee which pay jummas fixed under orders of the Government of Bengal, No. 1144, December 18th, 1843, and not according to the District Settlement.

Office of Commissioner, 19th Division, the 7th December, 1850.

(Signed) F. GOULDSBURY,  
Commissioner.

1300991  
343057





*Minute by Mr. A. J. Moffatt Mills, Commissioner of Cuttack,  
dated the 23rd January, 1847.*

## CUTTACK PROVINCE.

### REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

SETTLEMENT. I shall not, I trust, be thought to use a language unbecoming one who took a share in the settlement of the Land Revenue, when I affirm that the execution of this great work is, with all its imperfections, a blessing, and the extension of it to thirty years, the greatest blessing which Government has conferred on this Province.

In no Districts have the evils of short settlements been more felt than in Cuttack. It was alleged that the temporariness of the settlement, and the disappointment experienced at the postponement of the permanent settlement, were the grievances which led to the disturbances in 1818, but though full and careful enquiry shewed that the insurrection in Khoordah was owing to causes with which the system of Land Revenue settlement had no connexion, yet at the same time it was admitted and lamented by all the Authorities who considered the subject, that if the total assessment was not exaggerated, it was most unequally distributed. The Hon'ble the Court of Directors delivered their opinion in the following words: "The comparison of the above statements  
" and opinions on the subject of the assessment of the Land Revenue  
" compels us thus far to acquiesce in the conclusion, that Khoordah  
" and the other resumed lands of Rajwarrah had indisputably suffered  
" an extreme pressure of over assessment prior to the breaking out of  
" the late insurrection, while in the very nature and circumstances of  
" the assessment were combined a number of heavy and unaccustomed  
" evils to the whole population, both military and agricultural, of those  
" Estates; and that there is strong reason to fear that the rest of the  
" Province had also suffered from the pressure of over assessment,  
" though not in equal degree nor with similar collateral evils." The Vice President in Council, in the Resolutions of the 17th July 1828, concluded with observing, "on the whole therefore the Vice  
" President in Council is strongly inclined to be of opinion, that the

“ jumma of Cuttack has been too greatly enhanced, and must in some “ degree be reduced,” and when it is remembered that on the first settlement of the Province, the standard proposed to be adhered to, was the average of the Mahratta gross collections of preceding years, deducting certain unauthorized abwabs, and that the proposed average was nevertheless exceeded in the first instance, and that the jumma was arbitrarily raised and unequally distributed at different times without any reference to the circumstances of the Estates, or any knowledge of actual assets, it would have been a matter of surprise had the consequences of over assessment been otherwise than it proved to be.

Mr. Walter Ewer, who was deputed in 1817 to enquire into the state of the country, recorded his opinion in the following terms. “ I cannot “ think that Government need look to any material diminution of the “ Land Revenue, from the inability of the district to pay the whole Jum- “ ma, but I believe that great inequalities exist, and that the assess- “ ment does in reality press heavily on many of the poorer and less “ industrious Zemindars.”

During Mr. Ker's administration (1818-19) the jumma of some overburthened Estates was reduced, and much was done by that most able Officer to remedy the effects of past mismanagement, to restore order and regularity in the Revenue Department, and relieve the Zemindars from their embarrassments.

In 1833, Mr. Wilkinson measured and settled the large Khoordah Estate, and Mr. Ricketts followed the same course in 1834, with Noanund in Balasore. Mr. Hunter likewise concluded the settlement of Pergunnah Bakrabad, and Mr. Clarke that of Kakur in Cuttack in 1830, but no systematic measures appear to have been adopted to rectify the long acknowledged defects of the Revenue system, to acquire correct information regarding the actual produce and rent of Estates, to ascertain and secure the rights of the ryots, and make a more equal and just distribution of the burthen of taxation till 1836, when survey and settlement operations were commenced in earnest, and with a cordial desire on the part of the Collectors to surmount the many difficulties with which they were beset. It should be clearly understood that no great increase to the resources was looked for by any of the Authorities of the Province, even in late years Mr. Ricketts, to whose indefatigable energy, zeal, and experience we are mainly indebted for the accomplishment of this great work, writing in 1837 says, “ Increase to the resources “ need not be looked for in the Khoordah settlement operations. The

“ great Estate of Kotdesh, paying a lac of rupees, is notoriously over  
 “ assessed. In the Pergunnah transferred from Cuttack there may be a  
 “ small increase, but in this District no increase to the resources, worthy  
 “ of mention, can be expected. In Central Cuttack, the Northern and  
 “ Eastern Pergunnahs may provide a considerable increase; but the  
 “ result in Patamoondee has shewn how little reliance can be placed on  
 “ general report. In Balasore the increase in the Southern Pergunnahs  
 “ will not be less than 25 per cent.”

It may not be out of place to notice briefly the process which has been followed in conducting these operations before descanting on the results. It was resolved that the settlement of the whole Province should be conducted as closely as possible in conformity with the principles laid down in Regulation VII. of 1822, and subsequent enactments, and Circular instructions; and that it should embrace an enquiry into the area and boundaries of Estates, and the rights and privileges of the many classes of the agricultural community, together with an exact determination of the quantity and position of lands at present held under rent-free tenures, and an investigation and decision on every such tenure, as to whether such alienated lands were or were not liable to assessment.

The measurement was in the first instance entrusted to the Collectors; but as the Government were neither satisfied with the accuracy of the information such measurements were calculated to convey, nor the limited and insufficient test to which they were subjected, they wisely determined to precede the assessment by a scientific survey, defining the area of villages and their boundaries, and showing the total amount of cultivated, culturable and barren lands, the sites of rivers, embankments, groves, roads, houses, jheels and other objects of note, and to place the control of both the professional and khusra Surveys of each Zillah under experienced Officers.

Deputy Collectors were appointed to each Zillah, for the special duty of demarking boundaries preparatory to the survey, and deciding the boundary disputes. The small number of appeals to the Revenue Authorities, and the still smaller number of civil suits preferred against their decisions, afford the most satisfactory evidence of the good quality of the work; the important benefits which have flowed from it are too obvious to require comment.

When the survey and measurement of the season were concluded and tested, the maps and papers were sent to the Collector, and that Officer distributed the tract of country embraced in them, amongst the Settlement

and Resumption Deputy Collectors ; the former controlled by the Collector, and the latter by the Special Deputy Collector.

In the early settlements, the enquiry into the liability of rent-free lands to assessment, had been postponed to a future period ; but it having been satisfactorily demonstrated, that the Lakhiraj lands indirectly contributed to the payment of the admitted high assessment of the Thannee lands, inasmuch as the Thannee ryots held Lakhiraj lands at extremely low rates, from the profits of which they paid their high khalisa rates, it was judiciously resolved that the detailed settlement should be simultaneously conducted with an enquiry into all such claims, experience further suggested the wisdom of uniting the duty of settlement and resumption in an estate, in the same Officer.

The rent-free claims were numerous beyond belief ; it would, however, exceed the limits of a Memorandum such as the present, were an attempt made to detail the measures adopted for the purpose of carrying on the operations in a manner least obnoxious to the feelings of the people, and securing a calm and deliberate enquiry into the rights and interests of the parties concerned. It may be sufficient to say, that the rent-free claims in the three Districts numbered 2,77,925 ; that no stamp duties or fees were charged ; that Khurreedah Maffee claims, which were first considered as invalid alienations, were subsequently dealt with as ordinary rent-free tenures, and retrospective effect was given to these orders ; that dewutter and other tenures, the proceeds of which were found devoted to religious or charitable purposes, were considered to be *per se* perpetual, and not liable to assessment, because the grants themselves contained no heritable provisions ; that erroneous and illegal resumptions were rectified by the Collectors ; that the rules of the 17th of April 1840, in as far as they were applicable to Cuttack, were both prospectively and retrospectively carried out ; that the Settling Officers were authorized to relinquish small portions of land, not exceeding a few biggahs in each village, for the Gram Deotahs or village idols ; in short I may confidently state that it has been the earnest desire of the Authorities to carry out these unpalatable enquiries, in a spirit of extreme moderation and forbearance, with an earnest desire to uphold the rights of all, and I believe all did their duty with a tender and even hand, and in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

On the receipt of the field-book the Deputy Collector commenced operations. It was his first object to prepare a " teridg" of the Lakhiraj claims, which he sent to the Collector to number and register. When the registry had been made, he instituted the suits and invited the attendance

of the Lakhirajdars with their receipts (for without the receipts the sunnuds were not traceable) he then called on all the holders of under tenures, viz., Mokuddums, Surburakars, Khareedadars, Pudhans, Poorsut-ties, (and in certain estates some or other of these holders were most numerous) to show and prove their rights and interest in each case. While this examination was in progress, Ameens were deputed under the personal inspection and responsibility of the Deputy, to fill up the columns, headed "Soil and Crop" left blank in the field-book. When this enquiry had been completed and considerable progress made in disposing of the claims of Lakhirajdars and intermediate holders, the Deputy Collector proceeded to enquire into the real assets of each village, and make the jumma bundee of the khalisah and resumed lands, by defining the rent to be paid by the resident ryots, viz., by the Thannee ryots, by the Chandinadars, by the Khurreedadars of the first and second class, and finally by the Ex-lakhirajdars, for their several holdings, interchanging pottahs and kubooliuts with each of them to pay the rent imposed thereon. This, his first object, being attained, he next proceeded to classify and assess the nijchas, pahee and other cultivated and culturable lands, *en masse*, thus arriving at the aggregate jumma which the village should pay. The process was undoubtedly tedious and expensive, and it was more than once proposed to introduce the system of making settlements pursued in the Upper Provinces, but no Officer conversant with Cuttack Revenue affairs countenanced the proposition. The plan was discussed at a conference at the Board in 1841, and wisely abandoned as impracticable. Mr. Commissioner Ricketts expressed his opinion on the subject in 1838, in the following words: "The more experience I acquire, the more convinced I am that the aggregate to detail system is impracticable here. The Board have now seen enough of Cuttack settlements to judge what sort of a settlement it would be, if all the relative rights of Khareedadars of the first class, Khareedadars of the second class, Mokuddums, Surburakars and Thannee ryots, were to be left unadjusted; and I rely on their not proposing any alteration in the detail of the proceedings." In the operation report of 1840-41, I recorded my opinion as follows: "It was agreed (at the conference) that any alteration in the present system of making the settlements, and of preparing these papers (settlement records) was unadvisable; and abounding as Cuttack does with such a variety of undertenures, I think the aggregate to detail system of the Upper Provinces could not well be introduced, and sure am I that its introduction would

“ cause great and general dissatisfaction to the country, while as re-  
 “ gards the rents to be paid by the Ex-lakhirajdars, Khareedadars and  
 “ others, who before held their lands at a quit rent, or free of rent  
 “ charges, it would in practice, be found to retard the settlement opera-  
 “ tions; the Settlement Officers must fix the rents to be imposed on  
 “ these holdings.”

In determining the jumma, much was necessarily left to the discretion  
 of the Settling Officer. In addition to the instructions laid down

\* *Copy, 101 and 102 Paras. of Sudder Board's letter, dated 30th December 1836.*

101st. Thus it is necessary for the Settling Officer to collect the following heads of information.

1st. The very best information he can obtain by every available means, such as putwarrees, village accounts, &c., to ascertain what is the rent actually received by every proprietor from every tenant in his village.

2nd. A classification of the several description of soils, and their respective rates of rent, with reference to their produce and situation, on an average of years.

3rd. Enquiries into and comparisons of the rates of land of the same quality in adjacent places and villages, to a greater or less extent, as his judgment or opportunities lead him to make.

102nd. Having obtained all these data, he then proceeds to determine to the best of his power, what is the rent actually paid, upon a consideration of the whole evidence before him, and when he finds special cases, in which with reference to these data the rate said to be actually paid is irregularly high or low, he makes a particular enquiry into the causes of it, and either upholds the alleged rate of rent, or increases or reduces it as in his judgment appears right and equitable.

in the order of the 12th November 1833, para. 5, they were requested to attend to the points noted in the margin.\*

There was no difficulty in ascertaining the actual rent paid by the Thannees, as it was notorious that they were almost invariably assessed at a rate infinitely higher than the produce of their lands, or any concomitant advantages of residence, &c., could enable them to pay; with this safe guide to go by, with the Mahratta papers given into the first Commissioners, comprising detailed jumma-bundee, jumma-wasil-bakee, and jumma khurruch

accounts of each Mehal for 1209 and 1210, with the Putwarree accounts annually delivered into the Canoongoes' office, and with the information gathered from the Canoongoes and agricultural community, it was not a difficult task to estimate the rental of the occupied land and to determine what jumma each Mouza could ordinarily pay.

The Pahee rents are considered the market rents. The rate of rent actually paid for these lands it was almost impossible to ascertain; the Zemindar's accounts invariably understated them. It was generally the practice to assume the Pahee average at four annas in the rupee lower than the rates actually assessed on the Thannee lands; and experience shewed that the Settlement Officer did not wander wide of the mark in adopting this standard.

It would be foreign to the object I have in view, in drawing up this memorandum, to enter into the often-discussed question, as to the policy or otherwise, of fixing the rents of under-tenants at all. They have a right to a fixed money rent and to permanent occupation of their tenures; and though the fixation of rents for long periods may be, on principle, illusory, yet as it is the only security we can offer against unlimited and unscrupulous exaction, it is our duty to afford it when demanded. The Thannee rents have been generally lowered, and with it the condition of the ryot has, I hope, been improved.

**MOKUDDUMS.** The principle laid down for the treatment of this class is noted in the margin. The

Village proprietors, who paid through a superior at the cession and have since similarly paid through a superior, shall continue so to pay until they prove the right to separation in a Court of Justice, the rules prescribed in Section 16, Regulation VII. of 1822, being duly observed in each case, by the Officer who makes the settlement, under any modifications subsequently imposed by new rules.

That the Mokuddums who shall be found in possession of a fixed tenure, shall receive such proportion of the gross assets of the villages (either in land, money or kind, according to usage) as in the judgment of the Revenue Authorities shall be considered a fair allowance, he paying a full and equitable rent to the party under engagements with Government, for all the land within the tenure.

That the party under engagements with Government shall receive the malikanah allowance on the net jumma prescribed by the Regulation; and such further allowance on account of risks and expenses, not exceeding (malikanah included) 20 per cent. on the jumma, as may be judged right by the Revenue Authorities, unless under special circumstances.

of their title, was the Mahratta papers, to shew that they or their ancestors held the village as Mokuddumee at the time of the cession; Lakhiraj Sunnuds and Kubalas, to prove that they had, during the Mahratta administration, granted lands as Lakhiraj tenures and had sold the right of property in portions of their mokuddumees; and the putwarree papers, to testify that they had paid an invariable rent, increased only by a due proportion of the "Izafabesee" imposed on the whole talook by Government.

The claim to separation has not been acknowledged, and I doubt whether under the provisions of Clause 9, Section 4, Regulation XII. of 1805, the Civil Court would recognize it.

allowance fixed for the Mokuddums was 20 per cent., and where the villages were exposed to great inundation, 25 per cent.; he received on the half rentally settled lands  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; the Zemindar was allowed on the mokuddumee jumma 15 per cent., and on the half rentally lands  $7\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Mowroosee, or old hereditary Mokuddums, were doubtless the "rightful proprietors of the soil," and their tenures are of a heritable and transferable nature. The documentary evidence which was mostly relied on, in support



**SURBURAKARS.** The settlement proceedings were at the outset marked by much inconsistency in the matter of these tenures, but after the correspondence, noted in the margin,\* it was determined, Firstly, that the surburakaree tenure be recognized as one of the existing tenures of Cuttack. Secondly, that the Collector, at the time of making a settlement, must in the case of Mokuddums, fix the share of the existing rental to be allowed to the Surburakar, and the amount payable by him, from the village under his management, to the Zemindar. Thirdly, that if a surburakaree tenure be found at the time of settlement in possession of several joint Surburakars, the Collector, with the concurrence of the Zemindar, may select one or more of the body to be the recorded manager of the surburakaree. Fourthly, the Surburakars selected and recorded, cannot be ousted from their tenures, except for default of payment of rent, or for mismanagement, proved to the satisfaction of the Collector. Fifthly, that the tenure should never be admitted, at the time of settlement as a hereditary property, unless it shall have been held as such uninterruptedly from a period antecedent to the British accession, or antecedent to the 14th of October 1803, and unless the claimant be in possession of the tenure at the time or within a year previous to the settlement. Sixthly, that in cases in which hereditary succession or uninterrupted occupation cannot be shown, but the claimant himself has been long in possession, and is in possession at the time of settlement, the Collector may, in consideration of occupancy, and according to its duration and circumstances, propose temporary admission of the tenure, for such terms and on such conditions as the case may seem to require. Seventhly, that no admitted surburakaree tenure, hereditary or temporary, can be alienated or sub-divided without the consent of the Zemindar.

To the temporary Surburakars a deduction from the gross assets, to the extent of 15 per cent, and to the Mowroosee Surburakars 20 per cent, was allowed. In mowroosee surburakaree villages, the rent of the resumed lands is paid through the Surburakar, the latter receiving 7½ per cent, and the Zemindar an equal amount of per centage on the product.

\* **PUDHANS.** This tenure is chiefly met with in Southern Cuttack. In Mr. Stirling's Minute, in which amongst the distinctive characters of the Pudhans, he remarks that "there is this obvious difference, that the "Pitrals or Jagheer land of the Mokuddum, is a fixed and settled



“ quantity of ground, whilst the Pudhan is in theory allowed to cultivate  
 “ one biggah free of rent, from every 20 biggahs of ryotee land brought  
 “ into cultivation in the village.” But even this distinction scarcely  
 holds good in practice. They possess like the Mokuddums, hereditary  
 and transferable rights, and have been treated like these holders in  
 the matter of malikanah, with this exception, that while to the latter  
 the right of re-entry on recusancy has been disallowed, to the former  
 it has been conceded, under the following rules :

If the said parties shall prove that they possess hereditary transferable  
 Pudhanee rights, they shall be entitled to receive 5 per cent malikanah  
 upon the jumma, in lieu of any rights of management or lands in the  
 said village ; and on the conclusion of the settlement they shall again be  
 admitted to engage, upon their agreeing to such jumma as may be then  
 fixed. If the said parties shall fail to prove hereditary transferable Pudha-  
 nee rights, they shall be declared to be excluded.

**KHUREEDADAR.** These have been divided into two classes. The  
 Khureedadars who purchased their lands from the Zemindars, and  
 are, therefore, considered entitled to all the immunities of full proprie-  
 torship, including malikanah, if recusant, have received a deduction  
 of 30 per cent, from the assets of their tenures, the difference between  
 that and 35 per cent, going to the Zemindar, to compensate for the  
 trouble and responsibility of collecting the rents.

The Khureedadars who purchased from Mokuddums constitute the  
 second class. They have been considered to have no right to malikanah.  
 They are merely representatives of Mokuddums and have been treated  
 like them, the Zemindar's malikanah being fixed on the same scale as that  
 granted in mokuddumee villages to Mokuddums, viz., 20 per cent to the  
 Khureedadar and 15 per cent to the Zemindar. The Khureedadars of  
 this class forfeit all claim to re-entry by recusancy.

In villages under mokuddumee management, Khureedadars of the  
 second class pay their rent through the Mokuddum. The Mokuddum is  
 remunerated with  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , and the Zemindar with  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for rendering  
 themselves responsible for the collection. It is not considered that  
 tenures of the second class which have been admitted at a settlement,  
 will become null and void on a sale for arrears. Tenures created subse-  
 quent to the conquest are vitiated thereby.

**POORSUTRIES.** These are managers of a putna or village, and their  
 rights and privileges are akin to those of Surburakars, and have been  
 similarly dealt with as regards malikanah.

**RESUMPTIONS.** Proprietors of tenures exceeding 75 acres, have been admitted to immediate engagements with Government, and are entitled to malikana, on recusancy.

Lakhirajdars, whose tenures are less than 75 acres, have been permitted to hold their lands as dependant talooks. The Zemindars are considered to have no title under the law of 1793, to be regarded as proprietors, &c., and in that capacity to receive malikanah on the rental of resumed Lakhiraj lands.

Section 22, Regulation XII. of 1805, declares the Revenue assessed on resumed lands to belong to Government, and the second Clause of the same Section provides that the settlement should be made with the disseized Lakhirajdars, not with the Zemindars.

The Lakhirajdars whose tenures are situated in mokuddumee villages pay through the Mokuddum, the Zemindar and Mokuddum respectively receiving  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the payments for which they severally become responsible.

NOTE.—In some cases the Mokuddums have been granted 10, and the Zemindars 5.

The resumed lands have been assessed very moderately. The Collectors were particularly enjoined not to attempt to make them pay (without reference to previous payments) at the same rate as the surrounding hasilat. To have assessed these lands at the rate paid by ryottee lands of the same quality, would have in fact nullified the great boon of a half rental settlement, so graciously granted to the Lakhirajdars of Cuttack, who had possession of their holdings before and since the conquest.

The following rules have been observed in regard to absent and recusant proprietors of resumed tenures.

The lands of an *absent* proprietor are farmed for a period of ten years, under Section 29, Regulation VIII. of 1793, those of recusants for 12 years, under Section 12, Regulation VII. of 1822, in either case they are entitled to malikanah.

Sudder Mehals or tenures of 75 acres in extent and upwards.

The right of re-entry is absolute, not relative; if the proprietor *recuses*, he is allowed the option of re-entry after the period of ten years; if he does not *attend* after the issue of the notice, he is held to have forfeited all right of re-entry. The time for attendance ceases with the confirmation of the settlement. Every indulgence was conceded to the talookdars or occupants, in the matter of attendances; they were allowed to settle for their holdings during the period which intervened between the closing of the roidad and the confirmation of the settlement proceedings, and

Dependant talooks less in extent than 75 acres.

a ready disposition was generally evinced by all to engage for their holdings. On no account should petitions for re-entry be now entertained.

**MALIKANAH.** The Zemindar's allowance, to cover malikanah, risks, and expenses, was first limited to 30 per cent., but under the orders of the 6th of January 1840, 35 per cent. was fixed as the minimum, with permission to increase it to 40, in cases where the particular circumstances of the Estate justified the indulgence. The assessment of Estates which first came under settlement was perhaps not so equitable or moderate, though it was by no means excessive, as that of Estates which were settled when the Authorities had acquired experience and a knowledge of the country. In the former too, the culturable land was prospectively assessed, in the latter, that only which owed its state to fraudulent intention, was brought on the jumma bundee, and it was under such circumstances, that I recommended the application of the 35 per cent. orders to the former Estates. It was, however, not deemed expedient to comply with the recommendation.

The village staff, such as barber, blacksmith, washerman, &c., has been established in the possession of their jagheers.

In large Estates the Putwarrees have been remunerated by a grant of land, while in those of small extent, the Zemindars and Putwarrees were left to make their own arrangements, subject only to the interference of the Collector, in the manner laid down in Regulation XII. of 1817.

The village chowkeedars are also paid in land, but I regret to state that they have not been placed on such a footing as to engender in their minds any fear of being deprived of them on account of misconduct. In the early settlements it was the practice to increase the jagheers, so as to give each man 4 acres of jagheer lands. In 1841 it was determined to introduce money payments, but this plan having been objected to on the score of the great expense it would involve, the Government desired the Sudder Board to ascertain and report on the system in force in the Upper Provinces, prohibiting a return to the jagheer mode of payment, until further orders. No orders having since been received, the Settling Officers left the jagheers as they found them.

The financial effect of the settlement is exhibited in the following Statement, in which I have also added the jumma of the different temporary settlements, from the time we took possession of the country up to 1236, the year in which the settlement was last revised :

Years.	Killahs.				Mogulbundee.				Total.			
1212, .....	1,00,394	8	7	2	12,03,107	6	1	2	13,06,501	14	9	0
1213, .....	1,06,954	1	4	0	11,19,750	1	3	0	12,26,704	2	7	0
1216, .....	1,19,641	4	17	1	11,27,944	0	10	3	12,47,591	5	8	0
1217, .....	1,18,995	13	3	3	10,85,594	11	8	3	12,04,590	9	2	2
1219, .....	1,17,686	9	11	1	13,00,317	1	1	3	14,48,003	10	13	0
1220, .....	1,18,021	9	11	1	13,36,141	2	7	0	14,54,162	11	18	1
1224, .....	1,20,411	9	11	1	14,00,829	0	12	2	15,21,240	10	3	3
1228, .....	1,20,411	9	11	1	13,05,907	8	8	1	14,26,319	1	19	2
1229, .....	1,20,411	9	11	1	13,32,498	8	15	0	14,52,910	2	6	1
1236, .....	1,20,411	9	11	1	13,91,568	1	17	1	15,11,979	11	8	2
Cuttack, } Balasore, } Pooree, }	98,029	5	5	1	6,93,057	2	1	3	7,91,086	7	7	0
1236 {	4,657	11	3	2	2,86,043	0	14	0	2,90,700	11	17	2
	17,724	9	2	2	4,12,467	15	1	2	4,30,192	8	4	0
1237.	<i>Killahs.</i>				<i>Mogulbundee.</i>				On account of increase of jumma of Mouza Kukhar and Canoongoe jagheer resumed.			
*Cuttack, .....	98,029	5	5	1	6,93,057	2	1	3				
Deduct on account } of Dompura, ..... }	1,250	0	0	0	add — 1,522	3	8	3				
Total, .....	96,779	5	5	1	6,94,579	5	10	2				
	or Co.'s Rs.				or Co.'s Rs.							
	1,03,251	4	3	0	7,40,863	14	1	0				
	Grand Total, Co.'s Rs., .....				8,44,115	2	4	0				

\* The details of Balasore and Pooree were not forthcoming.

District.	Number of Mehals.	Former Sudder Jumma.			Number of Mehals as per settlement.	Present Sudder Jumma.			Increase.			Decrease.			Of increase the proportion derived from Resumption.		
Cuttack,...	1550	8,50,331	4	9	2,245	8,23,481	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	63,718	1	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	90,568	0	3	44,430	8	0
Khoordah,	198	4,50,660	2	9	273	4,70,177	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	58,377	7	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	38,860	3	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	47,372	14	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Balasore,...	760	3,53,659	4	11	922	3,95,971	9	1	79,806	8	7	37,494	4	5	35,476	14	10
	2508	16,54,650	12	5	3,440	16,89,630	5	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,01,902	1	6	1,66,922	8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,27,280	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

The following is a Statement of the number and jumma of Mehals engaged for, and thrown up (to be held khas) by their proprietor, and this is the best test of the success of the settlement.

Names of Zillah.	Number of Mehal on the Rent Roll.	Mehals held khas in consequence of recusancy of pro- prietor and Sud- der Jumma.					Mehals farmed out in consequence of recusancy of proprietor.					Government Me- hals, khas and farmed.				
		No.		Jumma.			No.		Jumma.			No.		Jumma.		
Cuttack,.....	2245	18	1,183	9	3	27	7,203	6	9	10	2,255	10	1 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Khoordah,.....	273	6	2,18,841	13	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	2,126	10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	6,743	13	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Balasore, .....	922	6	486	2	11	10	2,273	2	0	12	17,456	10	4			

The Statement speaks for itself, recusancy has been the exception. The expense incurred in these laborious operations, was enormous; the accounts closed up to the 30th of April 1845, from which time the settlement may be said to have been brought to a final termination, shewed a debit of 20,36,348; against this, we have a net increase in the Revenue of the three districts, of rupees 34,979-8-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

This increase, it must be admitted, is inconsiderable, but neither was much augmentation expected, nor was this great work undertaken with the view to enhance the Revenue of the State. The important objects contemplated by the measure, I quote from the 53rd para. of my

Operation Report of 1843-44, were “to ascertain the area of each Estate  
 “and the valuation of the land, to equalize the assessment, which had been  
 “fixed and augmented at hazard, without any reference to the capabilities  
 “of the Mehals, and which pressed with much severity on many of the  
 “poor Zemindars, to fix the boundaries of Estates, to decide all disputes  
 “relating to them on the spot, to settle all questions of rights and tenures  
 “between landlords and tenants, to tax the validity of the multitudinous  
 “rent-free tenures, a task which few hoped to see achieved.” When it

can be confidently stated that all this has been done, that each Estate has  
 been measured and surveyed, that the rents of each resident cultivator  
 have been fixed, that 2,77,925\* claims to hold  
 lands free of rent charges, have been judicially  
 investigated, in a manner which has repeatedly

* Cuttack, .....	1,49,449
Pooree, .....	46,803
Balasore, .....	81,673

called forth the approbation of Government; that the individual rights of  
 the Khureedadars of the first and second classes, Mokuddums, Surbu-  
 rakars, Pudhans, Poorsutties, Aymadars, Tunkeedars, and Thannee ryots,  
 numbered by thousands, have been ascertained, and separately and  
 distinctly recorded, it will, I think, be fully conceded, that operations,  
 which have conferred such permanent blessings on the people, and will  
 be so beneficial to Government in a fiscal and judicial point of view,  
 have not been dearly purchased.

As regards the subordinate agency employed in conducting the  
 settlements, the field of selection, confined as it chiefly and most pro-  
 perly was to the Natives of the Province, who were the best acquainted  
 with the local peculiarities, the customs of the people, and the landed  
 tenures of the country, was small, but it is satisfactory to state, that  
 neither my predecessor nor myself, had occasion to bring to the notice  
 of the Board any grave misconduct on the part of any Officer; while, on  
 the other hand, the meritorious exertions of many received the marked  
 commendation of Government. \* \* \* \* \*

I feel confident that the assessment has been fixed as high as the  
 resources of the Province warrant, and that the Revenue derived by  
 Government is quite as large as could be drawn, consistently with  
 the comfort and prosperity of the people.

In the Settlement Department all that remains to be done is to settle  
 and incorporate with the general Estate the petty tenures which may be  
 resumed by the Special Commissioner, and release the lands confirmed by  
 that functionary. With the view of bringing the Special Commissioner's  
 proceedings to a speedy termination, I was authorized to exercise a

discretionary authority in confessing judgment in those cases in which it was not deemed worth while to prosecute further, and there now pend only 55 appeals for the three Districts, so that there is some hope, especially as the door of appeal may now be said to be closed, of an and final settlement of the rent roll. At present the frequent changes of jumma involve confusion in the accounts.

**REMISSIONS.** No promise has been held out to the Zemindars of obtaining suitable remissions on the occurrence of general calamities of seasons, but it may be said to be implied; and the settlements cannot, in my opinion, stand the test of all seasons, Cuttack being a Province which is confessedly subject, as the Court of Directors write, “to seasons of extreme uncertainty, and liable to the most remarkable “vicissitudes of drought and inundation.”

In 1834-35, the country was laid waste by inundation, and rupees 1,86,942 of the Revenue of the Province was remitted. In 1836-37, a severe drought desolated the Province, and rupees 4,52,532 were remitted. In 1837-38, a similar calamity occurred, causing a further remission of rupees 5,87,146. In 1842-43, the Province a third time suffered from an early cessation of the periodical rains when rupees 4,86,625 of the Revenue were remitted.

Under the just and liberal terms of the present settlement, the Zemindars may fairly be expected to bear ordinary losses. In 1844-45, the Estates bordering on the Soobunreka were greatly injured by inundation, and remissions to the extent of rupees 10,365-6-11 were proposed by the local Authorities, but the Board did not consider the injury to be of such an extent or nature as to entitle the Zemindars to the indulgence. The proposition therefore was not submitted to Government. In the following year a like inundation occurred, and the Government, under the dictates of sound policy, remitted rupees 11,587-6-9 of the Revenue. In the same season, parts of Cuttack and Pooree suffered similarly, in some places with greater severity than in others. Guided by the Board's orders in the case of the Soobunreka Mehals, I recommended a suspension, instead of a remission of Revenue, a moiety of the demand was accordingly suspended, and as the crops of the present season are unprecedentedly good, the Zemindars, it is to be hoped, will be able to struggle against the disasters of the past year. I, however, strongly deprecate the system of drawing on the future; the Ooriah Zemindars are not only improvident, but extravagant, they have no means of subsistence besides the collections from their lands, and to make the demand payable in coming years adds

to their distress. I am of opinion that it would be far better to remit  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the loss sustained, than suspend the demand to the same extent prospectively for even two or three years. The Collector of Balasore has reported that some damage has been done to the crops in the neighbourhood of the Soobunreka and Byturnee, from the floods ; and the Collector of Pooree likewise writes, that the breaching of some bunds on the Bargobie, has caused extensive mischief in Rahang and Chowbeskood. If the damage has been extensive, it would be ruinous to the sufferers to refuse remissions commensurate with the injury sustained, more especially as their losses were heavy during the past year and they obtained no relief. In Rahang and Chowbeskood, which are Khas, relief must of course be given to the cultivators.

The Court of Directors, in their Despatch on the affairs of Cuttack, above quoted, very properly remark that "much of the distress which "has been ascribed to over assessment, may perhaps be more justly "regarded as the inevitable consequences of calamity of season in a "country where, from want of capital, every partial failure must be likely "to produce the most lamentable effects." Time has but served to confirm the truth of these observations.

**EMBANKMENTS.** The Province of Cuttack being intersected with rivers and mountain torrents, is peculiarly liable to inundation, the bunds which have been constructed from time to time, with a view to protect the lands from inundation, and thereby improve and extend cultivation, have become works of magnitude and importance, and of course are a source of heavy expenditure to Government. It is said that embankments are in the long run productive of far more mischief than good, that the beds of the rivers are gradually raised above the level of the surrounding country, and though the bunds afford protection in ordinary cases, yet when they do give way, they cause the most appalling losses ; the system has too long prevailed to admit of so sweeping a remedy as the levelling of all the bunds, while it is impossible to estimate what would be the consequence of such a measure ; at all events the question cannot, and should not be entertained, until the present settlement expires, as in estimating the assets of each Estate, regard has been had to the continuance of the embankments which protect them.

It also appears to me extremely doubtful, whether the removal of the bunds would be attended with loss or gain to Government. Some Estates might be improved from alluvial deposits, but I am led to think that the



so common in the Cuttack rivers, would do to the soil. In my letter to the Sudder Board, dated 19th August 1846, No. 1488, on the subject of the Chilka lake bunds, I have advocated the maintenance of the bunds in the most efficient order, and I am of opinion that an ill-judged restriction of the estimates would be productive of the most extensive mischief. Sluices in the bunds afford the greatest facilities for irrigation, and, therefore, tend greatly to ameliorate the disastrous effects of drought. I represented to Government that the Zemindars would not bear half of the expense, which the Government required as the condition of constructing sluices, because of the costliness of the works, and the small profits of their Estates, and urged the policy of Government bearing the whole expense, on the grounds that it would diminish the liability to loss from drought, and thereby benefit the State. This boon has been granted. The utility of the sluices only requires to be more known to be better appreciated. Some rules have been framed for the guidance of the Collectors and Executive Officers, in receiving and inquiring into applications for the erection of these works. *Vide* Sudder Board's letter, dated 21st October 1845.

**PUTWARREES.** The Provisions of Regulation IX. of 1833, have been enforced in the Province. The Zemindars are required to furnish a Bean, a jumma-wasil-bakee, and a list of Putwarrees annually, on the first of November each year, for the year preceding, one set of accounts is kept by the Putwarree, and the other is deposited in the Canoongoe's office. The Putwarrees are required to forward yearly to the Canoongoe, a statement shewing the changes of liability in the holders of intermediate tenures, *vide* my letter dated 5th of October 1844, to all Collectors, and 22nd of July 1846, to Collector of Balasore, for the instructions to be observed in the registration.

It has been ruled by Government, that the penalties prescribed by Sections 14 and 15, Regulation IX. of 1833, and not the penal Section of Regulation XII. of 1817, should be enforced against those Zemindars who neglect to give in their accounts.

The Collectors of Balasore and Khoordah report that the introduction of the provisions of Sections 12 to 15, Regulation IX. of 1833, has answered the desired purpose. The Collector of Cuttack states, that the rules of the Regulation have, as a means of enforcing the production of the village accounts, signally failed.

For many years previous to 1818-19, the state of the Collection was most unsatisfactory, the accounts exhibited heavy balances, the

Revenue of the current, was appropriated to the payment of that of the past year, and numerous and sweeping sales of Estates took place, in which much fraud was practised. In the year above quoted, Mr. Commissioner Ker suggested the enactment of Regulation X. of 1818, with the view of ensuring greater regularity and punctuality in the collection of the Revenue, and with the hope of preserving the remnant of the original native landholders of Orissa in the possession and enjoyment of their property. Under this law the Revenue is now collected, sales for arrears are avoided as much as possible, and are, I am happy to say, rare, and Mr. Ker's name is now adored for it.

This Dustuck system, as it is called, is not in favor with the Collectors; in my opinion it is far more suited to the existing state of things than periodical sales at fixed times of the year; the voice of the people too is against fixed sales; the Zemindars are, as a body, poor, and they prefer the system of dustuck, with its attendant expensive processes, from the conviction, that though they suffer in person and pocket thereby, it is the means of saving their Estates from the hammer.

**KHAS MEHALS.** The number and jumma of Zemindaree and Government Mehals held khas, is, in Balasore and Pooree, very small. In the Southern Division they pay a jumma of 2,18,841 rupees per annum, the

large Estate of Khoorda\* is managed by Deputy Collector, Mudoosoodun Patnaik, a native of the

country; the settlement was made ryotwaree, and was conducted by that distinguished Officer Mr. Wilkinson, after 18 years local experience. Each ghur, and some times each village, has its headman and accountant; in some there are subordinate Surburakars; the different description of persons who have entered into engagements with Govern-

- 1 Dulbehras.
- 2 Khundaits.
- 3 Bessoes.
- 4 Dullaas.
- 5 Naiks and Behra Naiks.
- 6 Roth Kurn.
- 7 Byl Kurn.
- 8 Bhocimool.
- 9 Cowree Chagia.
- 10 Ameens.
- 11 Seema Kurn.
- 12 Buswita.
- 13 Vakeel.
- 14 Pathan and Behra Puddhan.
- 15 Bhoe or accountant.
- 17 Poorsuttees.
- 18 Puddhans.

ment are noted in the margin, and a brief abstract of their rights and privileges will be found in Mr. Wilkinson's settlement report. I would further invite attention to the admirable system of management pursued by that Officer (and which is now carried out by the Deputy Collector in charge) as well as to the moderate and just principles on which he adjusted the assessment. The results have been most gratifying; the extent to which cultivation

has been carried is quite remarkable; Pottahs have become saleable and

are frequently mortgaged, and a spirit of happiness and content has taken the place of disaffection and disgust.

The large Estates of Kishen Chunder, Kishennugur and Rahang are the property of the widows of Lulla Baboo of Moorshedabad. They have

\* Note. They were made khas in 1813, and it was proposed to purchase them on the part of Government, in order to conciliate the good will of the ryots, but the bargain has not been yet effected.

been long\* held Khas, and it would be much to the advantage of the people that they should remain so. The lands are much exposed to inundation, and for the last three seasons the crops have suffered extensive injury; the repairs of bunds on the banks of the lake have been likewise neglected by the neighbouring Zemindars, which has caused a good deal of productive land to be thrown out of cultivation. The Collector proposed, and I supported the proposition, that Government should take charge of these embankments, which were originally constructed by its Officers, but the Officers of the Department of Public Works objected to replace them, from the apprehension that they would tend to raise the bed of the lake, and interfere with the natural drainage of the country; see Sudder Board's letter and enclosures dated 4th July 1846, No. 155.

The Estates abovementioned are under the immediate superintendence of Nilmonnee Birm, Deputy Collector, whose management is very efficient; he is especially required to look after the culturable land, and to endeavour to bring it under crop.

The Khas Estates in the other Districts do not require particular remarks; the jumma of Noanund, in Zillah Balasore, the property of Government, is rather weighty, but Mr. Brown manages the property with much success, and the assets have not materially deteriorated.

There may be two or three Estates in which the pressure of the jumma is excessive, but I have strongly set my face against allowing any of the recusing proprietors to engage for their Mehals on lower terms than the sudder jumma, plus 5 per cent. malikana, or the engaging proprietors to throw up their Mehals on the plea of over-assessment and deficiency of resources, or of losses occasioned by inundation, because I feel assured that in nine cases out of ten, there are no real grounds for complaint; and, moreover, the principle would be productive of the most mischievous consequences; the Zemindars would allow their Estates to run to waste and ruin, in order to obtain fraudulently a reduction of the demand.

**WARDS ESTATES.** The number and jumma of Mehals under the protection of the Court of Wards, are noted in the margin.

Name of Zillah.	Number of Mehals.	Amount of Sudder Jumma.		
Cuttack,.....	23	68,753	7	10½
Khoordah,.....	4	1,758	9	8¾
Balasore, .....	6	17,985	13	1

In Cuttack the number is large, but with the exception of Aul and Kunka, which are tributaries under the Regulations, they are mostly farmed and give no trouble.

**THE AUL ESTATE.** The “zangira” system of management prevails in the Aul and Kunka killahs, the heads of villages engage for the payment of the Revenue of the village, and one malgoozar becomes security for the other malgoozar, from which circumstance it is called the “zangira” system. Mr. Collector Tayler of Cuttack, raised objections to the system of management, which were overruled by the Board, as the system was not only practically successful, but was not at variance with the discretion vested in the Revenue Authorities by Clause 1, Section 3, Regulation VI. of 1822. I would invite attention to my letter, No. 1216, of the 8th of April 1840, in which the system is fully explained.

The mouzawarree assessment was adjusted on a reference to the average demand and collection of former years, checked by such information as was to be acquired regarding the actual state of cultivation, by local investigation, by the accounts of the karjees, and where necessary, by the deputation of Ameens, and was first fixed for three years. At the termination of the lease it was re-adjusted for five years, all inequalities of assessment being rectified, and the jumma, where found too heavy, lightened. This lease was again renewed for five more. At the end of next year, the last settlement will expire, the Rajah will obtain his majority in April next, and I proposed to make over to him the Mehals from 1255. This will give him some time to look about him and obtain some knowledge of the resources of his property, before he is required to make a new settlement with his Surburakars.

The Rajah's father was a person of the most dissolute habits, which became habitual, and impaired his faculties to such a degree, as to render him incapable of managing his affairs. His servants and others, if they did not encourage his sensual gratifications, certainly turned them to account, for they defrauded him of a large amount of personal property,

and accumulated for him a heavy load of debt. At the representation of the present Dewan, the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut recommended the interposition of the Court of Wards, which was granted by Government, and has been the means of rescuing this, the oldest and most respectable family in Cuttack, from overwhelming destruction. At my suggestion, as Collector of Cuttack, Government was pleased to advance a sum of money to pay off the debts, which I compromised with the creditors and discharged accordingly, and the young Rajah has now the prospect of entering on possession of his valuable Estates, with about Company's rupees 85,000 of cash in hand.

Great pains have been taken to fit the young Rajah for the position to which he will be soon raised, and had his natural abilities been on a par with his application, our hopes would have been realized. He is, however, a well meaning lad, and has shewn no disposition to indulge in vicious or profligate habits.

KUNKA. The late Rajah fell the victim, at an early age, to habitual indulgence in the worst kinds of debauchery and sensuality. He incurred debts to the amount of 1,10,337-2-7, and so misgoverned the country, that discontent and resistance began everywhere to appear; he at first solicited the interference of the Collector in the conduct of his affairs, and petitioned me to settle his Estate. Unwilling to see so valuable a property pass into the hands of strangers, and anxious at all times to preserve the old families of the country, I sanctioned the attachment and settlement of the lands; and the Rajah soon after dying, I authorized the Collector to bring the Estate under the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards.

The lands were measured, and a detailed settlement was made of each village, under the superintendence of Mr. E. T. Trevor, Deputy Collector, which came into operation from 1253 Umlee.

The leading principles of the assessment which were adopted with the concurrence of the Rajah, were to uphold the former rates, to assess land held in excess of the pottahs (after deducting  $\frac{1}{4}$  in every beegah for close measurement) at the average of the individual's payment; to assess the resumed paikan lands at half the rate of the ryottee lands; not to interfere with tunkee payments, but to assess the Towfeer of such lands at one-half of the average rate of the tunkee rent, and ryottee rate per beegah; to assess the lands of those paiks whose services the Rajah wished to dispense with, at half rates, in cases where they have not hitherto paid a jumma equal to a moiety of the ryottee assessment, and in those cases where it has amounted to a moiety, to raise the former

payment a little ; to settle the Towfeer Lakhiraj lands with the maliks at half rates ; to consolidate and incorporate with the land the numerous abwabs and cesses, which were levied from the ryots and were the source of constant litigation and heart-burnings ; and lastly, not to touch the Lakhiraj or Tunkee lands. The assessment is moderate. The ryots have willingly signed the jumma bundee papers, in token of satisfaction, and 456 out of 496 villages under cultivation had been taken in farm up to the end of April last, at the Mofussil jumma less 15 per cent. for expenses of collection. Nineteen villages were held *khass*, in consequence of the damage done to them by the inundation, and twenty were stated to be waste, and not likely to be made productive, without an embankment for keeping out the salt water ; the quantity of fallow land is very large, which is owing to neither the Rajah's father nor himself having taken any steps to repair the injuries which the great gale of 1833 did to this Estate. In 1841 I saw large plains, which had formerly been under crop, without a vestige of cultivation, or a sign to mark the habitation of men, but the mounds on which the dwellings before stood. The Zemindar's pottah Talika gave a rental of 48,014-2-8. The assets by the settlement, exclusive of culturable lands, are taken at rupees 79,113-5-8.

I have, in place of the Zemindar and as exercising the powers of the Court of Wards, approved of the settlement, and under judicious management it will, I think, conduce to the prosperity of the country and to the happiness of the people, as well as benefit the Zemindar. The state of the collections in this Estate is not satisfactory, and as I entertained doubts whether the Collector could, with reference to his other duties, pay that attention to the management which the circumstances of the case seemed to require, I deemed it advisable to assign the superintendence of the management to Deputy Collector Ram Pershad Rai who will be able to exercise more local supervision, which is what is most wanted to put things in order.

The paiks of Koojung and Kunka are a very troublesome class, and it is a wise and politic course to allow them, as has been done in the latter

\* Suddanund.  
Purbanund Swantra.  
Sudasib Mohapasaet.  
Bydyadhur Mohapasaet  
Nursing Sreedhur Naik.

Estate, to subside and to amalgamate with the ryots, the individuals noted in the margin,\* are continually exciting the ryots to withhold their Revenue, and in other ways fomenting discord.

The Collector is aware of their intrigues, and will, I hope, counteract them, but a vigilant eye should be kept on their proceedings.

The Rajah left two minor sons by "Phoolbaiees," the elder is deformed, and a cripple. He is a very sharp, though headstrong boy, and not disposed to study. The younger is very fond of his books, and has entered the English school of his own accord.

The crops of Kunka and Aul, as well as some other of the Wards' Estates, suffered extensive damage in the season of 1845-46, from inundation, and it has been found necessary to make remissions to the farmers and ryots. In the case of Kunka and Aul, I considered that the farmers ought to be able to supply from their own resources, a portion of the losses, and therefore suspended in Kunka 5-16ths, and in Aul 7-16ths of the amount proposed for remission, making it payable in the current season.

ATTACHED ESTATES. The number and jumma of Mehals thus circumstanced, are as follows :

Number.	Sudder Jumma.		
	Rupees.	As.	Pie.
9.	8,060	3	3 $\frac{1}{4}$

The only Mehal deserving of particular notice is Koojung, a tributary Estate, subject to the operation of the Regulations. It was attached from the commencement of the present year, at the earnest solicitation of the Rajah, who, brought to the verge of ruin, came into Cuttack and personally implored my interposition to administer the country and to make a settlement with his creditors. He agreed to sell off his personal property and reduce his establishments; this he has done, and under good management there is every reason to believe that in three years his fine Estate will be restored to him free from incumbrances.

The instruments employed by the Rajah in managing his Estate were of the most worthless description, and the condition of the country has necessarily deteriorated. His subjects also had shown a spirit of opposition.

The management which has been so successfully followed in Aul and Kunka, and which is in fact the native system, will be introduced in Koojung; and I have directed that Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae

should, as soon as the necessary information and accounts shall have been obtained by the tuhseeldar, proceed into the Mofussil and determine the jumma which shall be laid on each village, and settle it with the head men; the engagement is to be for two years only, in order that before their expiration, such knowledge may be obtained of the resources of the killah as will admit of the adjustment of the assessment for the remaining period of attachment.

The management is directed by Mr. T. B. Mactier, and I propose when the funds admit, to settle the Estate on the principle of the Kunka settlement. The Rajah seeing the beneficial effects of the latter, has solicited this favor.

**VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.** Eight schools have been established; 3 in Balasore, 3 in Cuttack, and 2 in Pooree.

My hopes in regard to the popularity of these institutions, except in the town of Balasore, have not been realized, but I do not despair of eventual success. To mark the progress they make, I called for a Half-Yearly, as well as an Annual Report, and I would recommend that it be continued for some time longer. The community of Balasore have petitioned for the establishment of an English school, and have expressed their willingness to defray all expenses incurred in the erection of the school-house, provided the Government will appoint masters. The Government say, that "if the classes who seek the benefits of an English education are able and disposed to contribute towards the instruction of their children, His Honor will select Balasore as one of the first Stations to have the advantage of an English Government School, whenever it may be determined to add to the number of the existing Government institutions."

**SETTLEMENT RECORDS.** Next to fixing the assessment, is to secure its benefits to the people, and this can only be done by the preservation of the records in which the rights and immunities of the several classes of the proprietors and occupiers of land, and the actual state of the country, its resources, means, and capabilities of further improvement are recorded. For the purpose of indexing and arranging the papers, Pergunnahwaree and Mouzawaree, a temporary establishment has been for some time employed in the three Collectorates, under the control in Cuttack of Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae, in Pooree of Nilmonee Birm, and in Balasore of Kishenkant Mitter. The progress in Cuttack has been most satisfactory, the arrangement having been brought to a state of completion.



In addition to this duty the Deputy Collectors are instructed to compare the Rukba, Jummakhurch, and Jumma bundee of each Mehal, with the Bhoureah, in order to ascertain whether the lands measured as Lakhiraj and Tuhseel Alahidah have been duly accounted for. This work will occupy some time, but the time and money spent will, I think, have been well bestowed, for adverting to the multitude of Lakhiraj claims, and the entanglement of the Tuhseel Alahidah tenures, it will not be a matter of wonder that some have, through inadvertence, escaped investigation.

The result of this comparison, as far as it has yet gone, is noted in the margin,\* and shews how necessary is this scrutiny to the completeness of the work, and the value of the records.

#### \* CUTTACK.

It has been ascertained that in 505 Mehals 235-18-10 of land have escaped notice, and 40-3-4 in excess of the Kharij lands have been included in the rukbas of dakhila mouzas. The Collectors have been directed not to take notice of disagreements arising from errors of measurement and calculation, but to confine enquiry and assessment to chappee lands which have erroneously or fraudulently escaped settlement.

#### KHOORDAH.

406-6-5 have been found in excess of the quantity of land recorded as separated, and 5,439-16-13 are less entered in the dakhila mouza. It is not supposed this quantity of land has escaped assessment, but that the error has arisen from want of regularity in the specification of the Tuhseel Alahidah land, this is being inquired into.

#### BALASORE.

The Collector has not yet reported the result of the comparison in his district.

as well as to make each Estate as compact as possible. I have always opposed Kittawaree, and as far as practicable, Chuckwarree Butwarrahs.

OMLAH. It has ever been a constant object with me to discourage the appointment of the Bengallis to offices of trust in the Province. The practice of natives following their employers to other districts, is productive of the utmost mischief; moreover it is not fair towards the people of the Province, and certainly no measure is more galling to their feelings.

BUTWARRAHS. The applications which are made for the partition of Estates are numerous; the facility which the survey and settlement has afforded to the division and separation of the Estates, is not the least of the blessings which has flowed therefrom. The Deputy Collectors who control the proceedings of the Ameens, are required to satisfy themselves, by personal inspection of the lands of the fairness of the allotments,

The Khoordah insurrection was, in some measure, attributed to the machinations of the Bengalli Omlah, in oppressing and plundering the people, and fraudulently dispossessing the Ooriah Zemindars of their Estates.

The Collector of Balasore having, in contradiction of my orders, appointed a native of Bengal to a situation in the District, I referred the subject, at the request of that Officer, for the orders of Government, who concurring in my views, have prohibited the appointment of any but natives of the Province to situations therein, "without special sanction of the Commissioner, and sufficient reasons which must be shown in each case."

ACTS. Such of the Acts of Government which relate to Criminal, Civil and Revenue matters, as well as those of general interest to the natives of the Province, are selected by me at the end of the year and made over to the Revd. A. Sutton, to translate into Ooriah. The translations commenced in 1841.

SUMMARY SUITS. It has been always my practice to enforce on those under me, a steady and scrupulous adherence to the law relating to arrears and exaction of rent, as I found that it had been laxly and inconsistently administered; with this view I had the Regulations translated, together with an epitome of the same, into Ooriah, and printed and circulated to the Canoongoes and others.

To make the suits what they should be, really summary ones, the Collectors have been desired to reject the suits under Section 9, Clause 1, Regulation VIII. of 1831, which may be preferred for the recovery of arrears of the past year, if not preferred within two months from the commencement of the current year.

Petitions have been presented by Zemindars and others for reduction of assessment on account of lands which have suffered from the action of rivers and other causes. I have discountenanced these applications, and informed the Collectors by my letter\* that Zemindars are expected

to bear ordinary losses, and Government will, if  
it be deemed necessary to grant relief, not only

\* 12th October, 1846.

inquire into the extent of assets destroyed, but into those gained by extension of cultivation since the settlement.

I also observed that under-tenants should apply to their landlord for a suitable reduction of rent, or should relinquish their holdings if the Zemindar should not afford redress, remarking that they had a right to a trial of their grievance (independent of the Zemindar's claim on Government) which might be made the ground of a summary or regular suit.

**ABKAREE.** Having long been of opinion that this neglected branch

The outline of the plan is as follows :

“ Uncovenanted Assistants to be appointed to Balasore and Cuttack, Pooree being incorporated with the latter. The Commissioner to undertake the duties of Abkaree Commissioner, under Act XXV of 1840, no intermediate authority to be between the Commissioner and the Uncovenanted Officer ; Darogahs and Burkundazes to be attached to each division, and Sudder distilleries to be established at the chief towns.”

of the Revenue might be made to contribute, in a far greater degree than it now does, to the exigencies of the State, I proposed the introduction of an improved Abkaree system, on the model of that which has succeeded so well in Bengal, though on a less costly scale. This was approved by the Supreme Government, with instructions to give it effect from the first December, but my departure for Europe

induced me to suggest, both in justice to myself and my successor, as well to the system which it will devolve on him to administer, that the period of its introduction be deferred till the first of May. The Government have complied with this request, and the Board, in recommending it, remarked, “ that it would enable my successor to organize the new establishment according to his own judgment, and the experience which he will gain, by acquiring a knowledge of the abilities of the Cuttack Province, as regards the Abkaree Revenue, which will doubtless prove conducive to the interests of Government.”

The new establishment, which will cost 1,307 rupees monthly, is to be organized from the first of April.

It was my intention to have appointed to the new offices of Abkaree Superintendent, two from amongst the Deputy Collectors of the Second Grade who are on the unemployed list ; it is the wish of Government to provide some employment for these Officers, and as from their ignorance of Bengalli they cannot serve in the Bengal Provinces, I have desired the Collectors, Magistrates, and Salt Agents to bear in mind their claims, on the occasion of any vacancies occurring in their respective offices, which they may be competent and willing to hold.

**SALT.** Under Regulation V. of 1818, the Commissioner is authorized to discharge and exercise the functions of the Salt Board, in regard to the manufacture and sale of Salt. He passes the accounts, reporting all matters requiring the sanction of Government, through the Board.

The large quantity of Salt in store has compelled the Government to diminish the demand for Salt, and the Taidad of the present year is fixed, as it was for the past year, at only 600,000 Maunds ; Cuttack Salt is, owing to the cost of transport to Calcutta by Sea, very expensive to Government, and Government have remarked that the keeping up the

manufacture is an obvious loss, and can only be justified by considerations for the people; but the circumstances of Cuttack are peculiar; it labours under many and great disadvantages, land carriage is expensive, carriage by sea is distasteful to the natives, and little used, and trade with other countries is on a very limited scale. The landlords are poor, and there is a great want of capital in the country; and as a large manufacture of Salt, which increases the demand for labour and affords the means of subsistence to thousands, was very beneficial to the country, so does the present limitation, destructive as it is of these benefits, occasion severe and general disappointment and despondency in all classes residing in the neighbourhood of the Salt lands.

Impressed with these considerations, I represented to Government the impolicy of diminishing the manufacture of Salt in the Cuttack Province, and urged its being raised to 1,000,000 Maunds. In my report, which is dated 1st August 1846, I reviewed the history of the Salt monopoly in Cuttack, which renders it unnecessary for me to say more on the subject in this place, than to state, that Government were pleased, in reply, to leave with the Commissioner a discretion to increase the Taidad, in cases "where hardship or distress to individuals might result from "too close a limitation, or when political reasons may seem to call for a "more liberal expenditure," but the quantity is not to exceed 800,000 "Maunds, and to be kept as much within it as possible;" adverting to the fact that there is nearly two years' stock of Salt in hand, (up to the end of August there were 9,700,000 Maunds in store) and to the state of the Government Finances, as developed by the opening of the 5 per cent. loan, I deemed it my duty, in the absence of any pressing case of hardship, to fix the Taidad at 600,000 Maunds.

Government also called for a report as to how the Zemindars will be affected, as regards their ability to pay their Revenue, should Government discontinue or diminish the manufacture. I would refer my successor to my reply dated 9th December 1846, No. 2116.

The Agents have been desired to reduce the expenditure to the lowest possible scale consistent with efficiency, and to concentrate the manufacture, where it can be effected without occasioning loss to the Zemindar. A complete and general concentration would be of advantage to Government, and increase the income of the few Zemindars in whose Estates the Salt would be made; but it would add so much to the distress of the many, as well as of the Molunghees in general, that I declined to carry it out; besides concentration is not an object of so

much importance as in Bengal, as the country, with the Sea to the east, and the hills to the west, does not afford the same facilities for carrying on an extensive contraband trade.

The Agents of Cuttack and Balasore have made a partial concentration, by which the expenses of the former Agency have been reduced by 4,724 rupees, 3 annas, and those of the latter by rupees 3,792-3-3 per annum. The Pooree Agent has not yet made his report.

The Cuttack Salt is transported from the Aurungs to the Depôt Golah of Hunsooah by contract. Mr. McKoy is the contractor. He has also charge of the Salt in the Golahs up to the time it is exported, and receives a wastage allowance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Maunds for Salt in transit, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for Salt when stored.

The Salt of the northern and southern Aurungs of the Pooree Agency is also taken to Hunsooah by Mr. McKoy; the Salt made in the other Aurungs of Pooree is stored at Meetakoah, on the lake.

	Rs.	As.	P.	thence to Calcutta. Mr. Bond su-
Dusmullung, .....	11	0	0	perintends the export to Calcutta.
Dukhin Chooramun, .....	14	4	0	The freight is noted in 'the margin.
Dhamrah, .....	14	0	0	
Punchmullung to Ootur {	12	11	9	Messrs. Beatson and Puddum Lo-
Chooramun, .....				chun Mundle export the Cuttack
Per 100 maunds.				

and Pooree Salt, the rates of freight are as follows :

Cuttack Salt 18 Rupees per 100 Maunds.

Pooree Salt from Golah Meetakooah, 25 Rupees per 100 Maunds.

The manufacture of Salt is abolished in the Aurungs of Ruttaee and Bolong, Balasore Agency, in consequence of the prevalence of smuggling. The Zemindars, besides the remission of Salt jumma, receive as compensation for Salt profits 1-5th of the jumma remitted. In the late settlements, the assessment of the Salt has been kept separate from that of the Muddoorée land, the former is fixed at 1-3rd of the payments which the Zemindars annually receive from the Salt Department.

Salt is sold at the Chokeys which are outside of the Aurungs, and at Golahs, which have been constructed at different points in the interior. The Salt is conveyed to the Golahs by contract. In Cuttack and Pooree, Kurkutch Salt is chiefly sold, in Balasore, Pungah Salt is alone sold. The article is disposed of at the Chokey in such quantities as may be required for domestic purposes, from five Seers to a Maund, and at the Golahs in quantities as small as a Maund, under the rules established by Commissioner Blunt, dated 25th November 1822, for regulating the

Provincial sales; the Kurkutch is sold at the fixed price of 1 rupee 8 annas, and Pungah Salt at 2 rupees, increased by charges of transportation, which raises the total cost to the rates noted in the

\* NOTE. In Pergunnahs Futteahbad and Killorachur the selling price is 3-12, the rate at which Salt is sold in Bengal. The price was fixed under the orders of Government dated 19th August, 1835, because the Jellasore people drew their supplies from Balasore where it sells at 2-5, in Cuttack at 2-4, in Pooree 2-2 and 2-6.

margin.\* The price of Kurkutch was, in 1844, equalized at my recommendation, throughout the Agencies of Cuttack and Pooree, and fixed at 1 rupee 8 annas per Maund; it was before sold at the Chilka

Lake Golahs at 1-1, and at Cuttack at 1-4, plus charges of transport, and the dealers were in the habit of purchasing Salt at the Pooree Chokeys and Golahs, and bringing it to Cuttack to retail, to the detriment of the Cuttack retail sales, the transport charges to individuals being less than to Government. The results of this plan have been satisfactory, while the accommodation and advantages which have been afforded to the people, by establishing more Golahs, viz. at Bankee, Balkutty, Diantol, and Kurjanjah, and thereby increasing the facilities of getting Salt, are too obvious to need any illustration, beyond those exhibited in the following Statement of the sales of Salt in the Province for the last ten years.







It is of course most necessary that the Agent should exercise a very strict control over the conduct of the Golah and Chowkey Officers to prevent smuggling, which is carried on in a petty manner in Cuttack and Pooree, and more extensively in Balasore, where the Aurungs are nearer to the hills, and the Salt can be run into the latter during a night.

**POLICE.** The Commissioner exercises the powers of Superintendent of Police in the Cuttack Province.

Heinous crimes against property are not numerous, dacoities are of rare occurrence, and affrays are almost unknown, petty burglaries are common, but as crime is not systematically concealed as in Bengal, the worst is, I believe, known.

The parts of the Districts under the Regulations, in which disturbances are most likely to break out, are Khoordah, Kunka and Koojung. Since the insurrection of 1818, the peace of the province has not been disturbed, except partially in 1835, when the Goomsur war drove into Banpore some of the revolting Khonds, who instigated their brethren of that part to take up arms and attack the Police posts. This outbreak was, however, soon put down, and the leaders, and others who joined them, were sentenced to various periods of imprisonment.

“ Banpore,” says Mr. Wilkinson, “ is the most southern purgunnah, on “ the west side of the Chilka Lake. It consists of two large and fertile “ vallies, which are bounded on three sides by hills and jungles, and on the “ fourth by the lake, and an extensive tract of hill and jungly country, stretch- “ ing to the confines of Goomsur and Attaghur. The hills and jungles are “ inhabited by Pauns and Khonds, famous for their predatory habits.”

The Dulbera of Aurung, to whom Mr. Wilkinson gave the large village of Aurung, on the condition that he brought back the Khonds who had deserted it since the former insurrection, and with the promise that he and the Khonds should hold it rent-free, actually joined the rebellion.

Ramchundra Mongraj succeeded him as Superintendent of the Aurung Khonds, receiving for this duty and for protecting the frontier, 60 beegahs of good paddy land. Shamsoonder Sreechundun is the Superintendent of the Barmal Khonds; he receives from each Khond 2 annas per plough instead of 4, the former rate of taxation, the 2 annas being remitted in consideration of the Khonds being obliged to keep the roads clear from village to village.

The Khonds have five beegahs of paddy land, and can clear as much jungle as they please free of rent. They are expected to protect the plains from being plundered. Last year the Banpore Khonds joined

some Khonds of Goomsur, Nyaghur, Attaghur and Kallikote, in committing dacoities in Nyaghur, but owing to the good conduct of the Darogah of Banpore, Shamsoonder Sreechundun the Superintendent, and Haldar Naik, sirdar of Goomsur, the offenders were discovered and punished, and the plundered property recovered. As a reward for the

Since writing this I have visited Banpore, and recommended that the Darogah be at once promoted and other rewards be bestowed. See my letter dated 31st December 1846, No. 2253.

meritorious services of the abovenamed officers, the Darogah is to be promoted to the first Grade, when a vacancy occurs. Shamsoonder Sreechundun was presented with a pair of gold ear-rings, a pair of silver bracelets, and a suit of clothes (total cost 50) together with 200 rupees

in cash and granted the honorary title of Rai; and the Supreme Government has recommended the bestowal of a jagheer on Haldar Naik, to the favorable consideration of the Madras Government.

A guard of Paiks is stationed in Banpore and Tanghy. Banpore should never be left without a very strong guard, as the hills situated between Attaghur, Goomsur, Nyaghur and Banpore, are full of Khonds, Danwasees and Pauns, noted for their predatory habits, and who are constantly engaged in the perpetration of robberies, in overpowering numbers.

The Paik Company of Khoordah is 200 strong. Besides the above guards, it furnishes a guard for the Pooree treasury. Captain Dunlop is the Commanding officer, he is also Commandant of the Balasore Paiks, spending the months in which the climate of Khoordah is inimical to the European constitution, at Balasore.

This force should, on no account, be reduced, and should never be without an European officer to keep it in an efficient state of discipline. Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Ricketts were of opinion, that two regular corps should be stationed at Cuttack, but so long as the Paik Company is kept on its present efficient footing, well officered and disciplined, one will, I think, answer for all ordinary purposes. If it ever be found requisite to employ a military force against any of the more powerful independent Rajahs, a second corps should be ordered from the Presidency.

Captain Dunlop is a very experienced and intelligent officer; he has offered to take the permanent appointment, but being a Madras officer the Government deferred the matter until the removal of his Regiment from Cuttack. The Staff pay is only 100 rupees, and considerations of convenience alone sway an officer in accepting the appointment; hence the difficulty always experienced in obtaining an officer to take it.

The Paik Company is under the general control of the Commissioner, as Superintendent of Police. Promotions to the higher grades are made through him at the Commanding officer's nomination, under the rules framed by me for his guidance, and approved of by the orders of the Supreme Government and Commander-in-Chief, *vide* letter No. 984 of the 23rd November 1841, from Mr. Deputy Secretary Young, with enclosures.

The Gedamars, Shagulkhors, Subakhias, by which names this class of people is known, are professional dacoits. There is a colony in Mohurbunje, another in Midnapore, and another in Balasore. Seventeen of this tribe have been lately arrested by Major Riddell, and have made some important disclosures. It is in contemplation to seize upon all the tribe, at a favorable opportunity. See Mr. Dampier's letter, 30th May 1846, and mine of 18th instant.

Mr. Hough is Deputy Magistrate of Pooree, and Mr. Brown of Balasore. These officers are also Deputy Collectors of the first Grade. Mr. Brown has charge of one Thannah, Buddruck; and Mr. Hough two, Gope and Piple. They reside at the Sudder Stations, and in addition to the above charges, assist the Collector and Magistrate in the conduct of the general duties of his offices. I proposed to vest Deputy Collector Brijsoonder Rai with the powers of a Deputy Magistrate, to be stationed at Jajpore, with jurisdiction over Buddruck in Balasore, and Mutto, Jajporé and Erruckpore in Central Cuttack, but Government has not replied to the communication, probably under the impression that the paucity of heinous crime did not require the appointment. Had the proposition met the approval of Government, I intended to extend it, and to make Assuressar and Neemapara the stations of two other officers, similarly empowered. It is in the double capacity of Collector and Magistrate, that officers, stationed in the interior of a temporarily settled District, can really do good. They can not only bring criminal justice nearer to the people and repress crimes, but afford substantial redress to the peasantry, and while they will aid the good, they will be a check on the rapacious and oppressive, landlord.

The Magistrates have been required to prepare a statement of the land assigned for the maintenance of the village Chowkeydars, and to furnish the Darogahs with extracts from the same, desiring them at the same time to ascertain and report whether the Chowkeydars are in possession of their lands.

The boundaries of the Balasore and Cuttack Districts require adjustment; the Magistrate of Cuttack has submitted a report on the subject, which has been sent to the Magistrate of Balasore for his opinion.

The Cuttack revetment has this year given way in several places, and I understand that its restoration will cost not less than 3,90,595 Rupees. The Mahanuddi river which is said to rise near Bustar enters the plains at the station of Cuttack, throwing off its tributary, the Kajoori, to the south of the town. In the rains the torrents descend with fearful rapidity, and to protect the town from inundation on the southward, this solid embankment was constructed by the Mogul Government in the reign of Jahangeer, 225 years ago, and has been always kept in repair by our Government. Stirling says, "it yielded in places, in the memory of man, and the consequences were tremendous." Fortunately in the last season the waters timely subsided, and no mischief was done. The amount of the estimate is large, and the value of the Government property at the Station is not of that extent as would justify the restoration of the embankment. It would be cheaper to establish the Station at some other place; but the question depends on other considerations, viz. the value of the city, intrinsically and commercially. The existence of the Town depends on the continuance of the revetment. Cuttack contains a population of about 50,000 persons, there are about 6,300 houses, of which 1-6th are pukka, many of them built of stone, (amongst them that fine mansion the "Lall Bagh," which is built on the revetment.) The city is situated on a tongue of land at the bifurcation of the Mahanuddi, and on the high road to Ganjam; it affords convenience for carrying on a commerce with Sumbulpoor to the West, Madras to the South, and the low countries to the East, while its proximity to the hills, points it out, in a political point of view, as the most desirable place for the cantoning of Troops. I am of opinion, that the restoration of the revetment is a work of too great public advantage to be weighed by considerations of expense only, and would therefore earnestly recommend that it be re-built.

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## MIDNAPORE.

The two large Estates of Majnamootah and Jellamootah, which from time to time have given rise to a most voluminous correspondence with this office, the Board, and Government, have been surveyed, measured and settled, and the settlements have been confirmed by me; the proprietor of Jellamootah has entered into engagements to pay the revenue fixed by the settlement, but has since urged numerous and vexatious objections against many parts of the arrangement. I reported in detail on these objections, and the Board have, by their orders, No. 240 of the 4th of December 1846, rejected his appeal. The only questions not disposed of are those mentioned in my letter to the Collector dated the 27th of February 1846, relating to the double assessment of some lands. Deputy Collector Jadub Chunder Chattoorjea has been directed to institute a local inquiry into their truth.

The Jellamootah accounts have been adjusted, but neither the revision of the Jumma of this, nor of the Majnamootah Estate can be considered final, so long as the Lakhiraj appeals remain undecided; it will be necessary to furnish annual statements, exhibiting the results of the orders passed by the Appellate Court.

Many petitions have been presented to the Collector by the ryots, urging various, and in general most frivolous excuses, which should have been brought forward at the time of settlement. I have desired the Collector to reject all petitions, where there are not special grounds for enquiry and redress, such as those of double resumptions and assessment.

The Zemindars of Majnamootah were excluded from the management of their Estate for the period of five years from 1249 to 1253, under Regulation IX. of 1825. They have executed Kabooleuts to take effect from 1254, but the demand against the Zemindaree up to 1253, awaits

adjustment.\* The principle of the adjustment

\* Has been reported.

has been sanctioned by my orders No. 258½ of the 16th of February 1846, and No. 1604 of the 1st of September, but the transmission of the Statements is deferred, until a complete revised Statement of the whole Estate, including remissions of assessment on account of subsequent release of Lakhiraj lands and other changes up to the end of the Umlee year, can be made.

The Lakhiraj tenures in these Estates were counted by thousands; they have all been disposed of, and the resumptions under 100 Beegahs

are comprized within the settlement of the parent Pergunnah. The absentee holders have been treated with the same leniency as those of Cuttack, and though the settlement was upwards of three years in hand, and the parties had ample time to come in, yet, in consideration of the unhealthy climate of Hidgellee, its distance from Midnapore, and the shortness of the period during which the Settling Officers could remain in the District, I permitted the Superintendent of Settlements to admit those who neglected to attend before the close of the settlement Rooidad, and did so before 30th April 1846, to the benefit of a half rental settlement from 1253, losing the half rental indulgence for 1252. Notices were circulated to this effect, so that no objection can reasonably be urged, nor should any investigation of right be allowed, nor any application to engage at half jumma be, on any account, now received.

The Julpai lands of Majnamootah and Jellamootah, in the possession of the Salt Agent have been defined, and the numerous disputes (which gave rise to much correspondence with the Salt Agent, Board and Government) connected therewith, settled. I also effected a compromise with the Zemindar of Mysadhul, in regard to the Julpai lands which were under dispute in that Zemindaree, by giving up to the Zemindar the detached patches of Julpai land, as shown in the Surveyor's Map, the Zemindar receiving the Wasilut of the relinquished land decreed, and giving up the uncultivated portion of the land specified in the decree, to Government. The Wasilut has been paid, but the Collector has not reported that full effect has been given to the compromise, by the Salt Agent making over the scattered patches of land to the Zemindar. It was proposed to depute a Deputy Collector to make them over, but this was not carried out, as the Collector reported that he had arranged for the lands being made over by the Salt Agents of Tumlook and Hidgellee. The Agent of Tumlook having petitioned to include more lands within the boundary, I authorized the Collector to measure and value the lands required, preparatory to carrying out the provisions of Regulation I. of 1824, but as the authority of Government has not been obtained for taking the land, further proceedings have been stopped.

The Agent further urged that the Agency was not in possession of the full quantity of land recorded in Mr. Mason's report, and threw doubts on the accuracy of the survey. I replied to these allegations by my letter, No. 686, of the 6th of April 1845, in which I suggested that before the Board of Customs, Salt and Opium, came to the determination to have the lands re-surveyed, they should institute inquiries into

the manner in which Mr. Bury's measurement was conducted, as I put more trust in the professional survey, than in the measurement of jungle land by Natives, and further I gave it as my opinion, that it would, on comparing the returns, be most probably found, that the difference was owing to the exclusion, by the Native measurers, of Khals and unprofitable Salt lands. No further communication has been received.

The Government have directed the Military Board to mark off, through the Executive Officers, the Julpai lands, as defined by the Deputy Collectors, either by pillars or embankments, as may be deemed most advisable with reference to the circumstances of each case, taking the existing embankments, where they define Julpai lands, as the line of demarcation.

The Chowkeydars in Majnamootah and Jellamootah are paid in money; they receive 2 rupees per mensem; the amount is deducted from the sudder jumma, and credited to a separate heading in the accounts; to avoid delay in the payment of the salaries, the Magistrate is authorized to draw from the Collector's Treasury such sums as he may require for that purpose, the Magistrate holding the amount in his inefficient balance, until the audit of the bills by the Commissioner, when they are transferred to the Revenue Treasury, in the same way as Judicial Contingent bills are charged in the Collector's accounts under the heading of Mofussil charges of Khas Mehal Collections.

<p>Three Government Mehals and 24 Resumed Mehals await settlement,</p> <p>11 have been since settled and reported.</p> <p>3 are under report.</p> <p>2 will be settled and reported in the ensuing season.</p> <p>1 is under appeal.</p> <p>3 have not yet been found, and the remainder are under settlement.</p>	<p>4 pend before Deputy Collector Shib Chunder Deb, and 23 before Mr. Caspersz.</p> <p>The estimated jumma of the whole amounts to only 5,015 rupees. The progress made in settling these Mehals is shown in the margin.</p>
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There are also 3 temporary settled Mehals, sudder jumma rupees 474-5-4, which are open to re-assessment. These Mehals have, by orders dated 17th August 1846, No. 1478, been made over to Mr. Caspersz for settlement.

<p>The Salt Mehal of Mohur is also to be measured and settled, but the</p> <p>Orders have been since received to maintain the bunds and restore those destroyed.</p>	<p>Military Board having declined to build the Sluices, and having proposed to do away with the embankments altogether, the measurement and settlement are deferred until the close of 1254.</p>
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The proprietors have remonstrated against the destruction of the Bunds,



and with reason complain that the Government has not fulfilled its part of the agreement, viz., to build Sluice gates in the embankments constructed by the proprietors. The Mehal was rented to Government for fifty-eight years for Salt purposes, and the manufacture of Salt having been abandoned, it was thrown on the hands of the Zemindar. It then paid a jumma of 5,000 rupees to Government; the Zemindars were allowed to engage on a reduced jumma, viz. rupees 971-2-8, calculated on the actual assets for five years, the time allowed for bringing the lands under cultivation which has now expired.

The sudder jumma of Mehals, the property of Government is, according to the last year's account, rupees 80,561-4-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; with the exception of the three above stated, they have been all settled and leased. Kurrugpoor and Khedarcoond are farmed Mouzahwarree; the unadjusted balance against these Mehals amounts to only rupees 3-15-3 $\frac{3}{4}$  under recovery, and rupees 165-6-7 $\frac{3}{4}$  suspended on account of excess collections.

There are two items on the balance sheet of the resumed Mehals under Khas management which demand notice, rupees 1,331-9-1 $\frac{1}{4}$ , disputed by Ramchunder Maintee and Nursing Sahoo, who farmed the petty resumptions in Pergunnahs Erunch and Bograi before the collection of the rents was made over to the Zemindar, and rupees 2,150-8-10, due from Mehals transferred from Burdwan, the greater part of which is said to have been collected and misapplied by the Burdwan Tuhseeldars. Mr. Deputy Collector Caspersz is making inquiry into the matter.

The sudder jumma of Mehals held Khas, or farmed on account of the recusancy of the proprietors, amounts to rupees 1,19,463-12-4 $\frac{3}{4}$  and no balance for the past year outstands. Majnamootah, paying a jumma of rupees 1,14,911-15-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ , has been since engaged for by the Zemindars.

The Estates of seven minor proprietors are under the protection of the Court of Wards. They are all let in farm, and the collections are made with due punctuality. The minor proprietors of Soojamootah and Gopalpoor are educated at the Government School at Midnapore.

The widow of the late proprietor of Gopalpoor has refused to acknowledge the adoption of the minor, who was affiliated by her husband, and who reported the circumstance to the different authorities. She maintained that her husband had bequeathed the property to her on his death-bed and invested her with the Teeka. As the claimant is a female, I brought the Estate under the Court of Wards for the protection of the interests of all parties. The alleged gift is open to suspicion, and if made, cannot I think set aside the adoption.



The widow having refused to make over to the guardian the charge of the *undivided Estates*, I moved the Civil Court, under Regulation I. of 1800, to appoint the minor's guardian as their manager. The Court complied with the requisition, and the Collector has been directed to petition the Court to instal him in possession, should the widow keep up her resistance.

Four *Mehals* are attached by order of the Court; they are let in farm, the leases being subject to cancelment on the release of the *Mehals* by the Court; the legality of this arrangement is, I know, open to question, but the Collector is the person to whom the Court looks for the proper management of the property, and it seems to me that he may manage the *Estates* in the manner best calculated to secure their prosperity. As *Khas* management has always failed in Midnapore, and is especially to be eschewed, I have sanctioned farming arrangements; the farmer is in fact the *Surburakar*.

The *Butwarrah* file was in a most confused state, unintelligible shares, and therefore incapable of a *Butwarrah*, had been directed to be divided. *Mehals* which had been illegally separated from the parent Estate, had come under partition, while some so separated had been sold, and could not therefore be re-annexed to the original Estate, fractional parts of *Estates* had been also brought under division, instead of whole *Estates*; some cases in which a *Butwarrah* was legally impracticable, have under the Board's orders, No. 174 of the 18th of April 1841, been struck off the file, others remain in *statu quo*, it having been judged unadvisable to go on with the *Butwarrah* until the District should have been surveyed and the *Towjee* readjusted. The survey having been completed, the *Butwarrahs* are now being proceeded with, under the supervision of the Deputy Collectors, Shib Chunder and Mr. Caspersz, who are required to proceed to the spot, inspect the lands, verify the measurement, and then determine in what manner the division is to be made, submitting their proceedings, when brought to a close, for the Collector's approval, and for transmission to the Commissioner.

When the survey and measurement of *Hidgellee* were finished, it was resolved to extend the operations to the remainder of the District, making a *Mouzahwarree* survey of every Estate borne on the *Towjee*, preceded by a demarcation of boundaries and an adjustment of boundary disputes; villages in which the lands of different *Estates* were interlaced, were measured by *Ameens*, who were for some time controlled by the Surveyors, but the measurement was sadly mismanaged. The *Zemindars*

refused to sign the Chittas, and the Surveyor was unable to reconcile the disagreements between the Khusra and the professional survey, as well as between the former and the Collector's Registers; it was therefore determined to make over the duty of testing these measurements to Deputy Collectors, as well as to assign to them the conduct of the future measurements. The Khusra measurements then proceeded satisfactorily, and the Zemindars signed the papers in token of their correctness, but on the Collector proceeding to test the areas of his Khusras, in communication with the Surveyor and by comparison with the professional records, it was found impossible to reconcile the conflicting results of many villages, as well as to discover the parentage of others, and it was therefore resolved to depute a surveyor to revise the survey and measurement in those villages in which the discrepancies existed, and to employ an extra establishment under the control of three ministerial Officers, to find out the parent Mehals of the villages which the Surveyors neglected to identify, and which were not traceable in the Collector's records.

The Surveyor General attributed the disagreements to the following causes, firstly, to considerable neglect on the part of the Surveyor; secondly, to the erroneous mode of native mensuration; thirdly, to the inaccurate Registry of local rods in the Collector's office; fourthly, to the fallacious mode of calculation used for converting the local, into the European land measure; and finally, to a want of common observancy and caution in carrying on the professional and Khusra measurements on dissimilar areas.

<p>Bhunjabhoom. Dhenkia Bazar. Bahadoorpoor. Gugnapoor. Tuppa Balseeta. Burra Hossenpoor. Narajole. Kassiarree. Kismut ditto. Pertab Chand. Tooka Chand. Dutmootah. Bajjerpoor. Joolkapore. Ooterbehur. Narainghour. Agrachour.</p>	<p>The task of revision has been delegated to Mr. Swiney, and from a letter received from the Collector, under date the 23rd of September, on the subject of the progress made by him, it appears that the villages remaining to be reconciled will probably occupy him three or four months; the Collector cannot of course complete his Mouzahwar and Mehalwar Registers, which are drawn up according to forms furnished by the Board, until the conflicting results shall have been rectified. Registers of the Pergunnahs, noted in the margin, have been sent to the Board, and all the others are in a state of forwardness.</p>
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Three *Vernacular Schools* have been established in the District, one in the Town of Midnapore, the second at Pingla under the superintendence of the Meer Moonshee of the Collector's office, and the third at Gugnessur;

under that of Hurnarain Dutt, Government Pleader, both are assisted by local Committees. The Schools are flourishing, and meet with due encouragement from the native community.

The Special Deputy Collector's office has been abolished, but three Amlahs, Salary rupees 79-8-0, have been retained until the abolition of the Special Commissioner's Court, or until the disposal of the appeals.

The Establishment of the Superintendent of Settlements was done away with, on the 30th of April 1845, but the Collector has not reported whether the work which pended before him had been completed. It is desirable that the adjustment of refunds and malikanah to Lakhirajdars should be no longer delayed.

The crops on the Kossye and Roopnarain rivers suffered in 1843-44 and in 1844-45, from the floods breaching the embankments, and the damage done in the last named year was so great, that the Government were pleased, at my recommendation, to suspend the demand of 10 annas of the Revenue of 1253, making half payable in January 1847, and the remainder in January 1848, and to postpone enforcing payment for the repairs of the embankments, (which expense the Zemindars are bound to defray,) until inquiries shall have been made into the Zemindars allegations, as to the imperfect construction and lax supervision of the bunds by the Government officers.

The Collector has also brought to notice the faulty and collusive way in which the allotment of the embankment charges amongst the Zemindars was originally made, but pending the decision of Government relative to the abandonment or retention of the embankments, I have, at the suggestion of Major Sage, as expressed in his letter, No. 1550, of the 23rd of September, allowed the matter to rest.

The *wild Buffaloes* are one of the greatest impediments to cultivation in the Hidgellee Estates. Mr. Bayley says, "unless some plan be devised for their destruction, Hidgellee will become daily still more waste." The Government sanctioned a reward of 4 rupees each for the destruc-

<p>Since reported.</p>	<p>tion of these animals, provided the Zemindars agree to pay an equal sum, but the Collector has not yet reported that they have assented to the proposal.</p>
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The Zemindars of Mysadhul, Soojamootah, Tumlook, Meergodah, Kakrachor and Beercool, receive annually a compensation for the repairs of the interior embankments, on the condition that the repairs be *bonâ fide* made. The bills are passed on the certificate of the Executive Officer. The repairs were formerly made by Government, and

the present arrangement was only adopted in 1839. The Zemindar of Tumlook remonstrated against it, and will not make the repairs. The Zemindar of the three last named Estates have also neglected to keep their bunds in order. Those of Majnamootah and Jellamootah were likewise desired to take charge of the works in their Zemindarees, but they too objected. As the two last named Estates were temporarily settled, and the neglect of the works tended to deteriorate the assets, and thereby injure the interest of Government, the Government sanctioned, at my recommendation, the re-transference of the charge to their own Officers.

The Government orders of 4th of March 1846, No. 162, direct that resumption operations shall cease and determine at the end of this year, and desire the Commissioners to examine all the cases on the file of their subordinates, in order to strike off those in which the right of Government is doubtful; there are 14 cases now pending before Mr. Caspersz, and the Collector has called for, and promises to report on them very shortly.

There are also 34 cases to try the right of Lakhirajdars to hold tenures, *not in excess of 100 Beegahs*, and situated within Estates purchased on account of Government, which have been instituted with reference to the Special Commissioner's Circular of the 16th of June 1842, under Section 30, Regulation II. of 1819. The orders of Government above quoted are ruled to be inapplicable to these suits, which are for rent, not revenue.

I have only authorized the institution of those suits in which the right of Government to assess appeared to rest on *prima facie* good grounds, and have exempted from enquiry all tenures not exceeding ten Beegahs.

Jadub Chunder Chattoorjea, Deputy Collector, is employed exclusively in arranging the records of the Mahafizkhana, and assorting and listing the Settlement and Resumption papers connected with the Hidgellee temporarily settled Estates, and Midnapore resumptions. An extra establishment is allowed to aid him in the execution of the duty. The Government has also authorized the provision of additional accommodation for keeping the records, and it is under consideration with the Executive Department, whether new record rooms should be added to the present building, or a house be purchased.

The entire expenses of constructing *Masonry Sluices* in the embankments, of the *temporarily* settled Estates of Hidgellee, are borne by Government.

The Collector has recommended that Hidgellee should be reconstituted an independent Joint Magistracy and Deputy Collectorship. He describes it as a sink of iniquity and oppression. I made a similar

recommendation in 1843, proposing in case circumstances might prevent its adoption, the appointment of an Uncovenanted Deputy Collector, as Tuhseeldar of the Hidgellee Division. The Board supported the proposition, but it was negatived by Government. I re-urged it on the abolition of the office of Special Deputy Collectorship, and again the Board seconded it, but with no better success. The Government have however directed the Salt Agent to receive payments on account of the Land Revenue of Estates in Hidgellee. This is a convenience to the Zemindar, but it is no palliation of the evil complained of. Hidgellee Estates are also exempted from sale on the 28th of September, as the Salt Agent is absent from Hidgellee during the rains, the unhealthy season of the year.

(Signed) A. J. MOFFATT MILLS,

*Commissioner and Supt. of Police,*

*Cuttack.*

*23rd January, 1847.*

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## MINUTE ON THE TRIBUTARY MEHALS.

It is, I think, the duty of every Officer to furnish his successor with the fullest information possible regarding the state of his office, on the occasion of his resigning charge of it, to show what has been done, as well as what is in progress, and this is the more incumbent on me, as I quit an appointment, the duties of which are of more than ordinary importance and responsibility, and to those who have not held office in the Province, novel and perplexing. Actuated by these motives, I have drawn up the following report on my administration, in which I have stated the views entertained by me in regard to various questions of a general nature and of prominent interest.

It will be convenient to begin with recording an outline of my proceedings relative to the management of the Tributary Estates.

There are 15 Tributary Mehals under the Commissioner, in his capacity of Superintendent of Tributary Mehals, which are exempt from the operation of the Regulations. In the Appendix will be found a brief history of each Killah, containing the amount of Peshcush paid, the estimated number of armed Paiks which it is supposed each chief can bring into the field, the estimated extent and resources of each Raj, the character of each Chieftain, and a few remarks on the peculiarities of the Country.

Mr. Ricketts' luminous and able Report, No. 168 of the 21st January 1839, furnishes all the information which the records of the Office contain regarding the management of the Killahs from the time we took possession of the Country. These Killahs are designated Jungle or Hill Zemindarees, occupied by a rude and uncivilized race of people, and it would appear that their exemption from the jurisdiction of the Civil and Criminal Court was founded on motives of expediency alone, and wise was the determination, for the Country was not prepared for such a change; the great error of our Government has been "too much precipitation in attempting to better the condition of the people, with hardly any knowledge of the means by which it is to be accomplished."

The Superintendent was directed to establish such a control over the conduct of the Zemindars as might prevent the commission of crimes and outrages.

In 1814, Mr. Impey proposed the introduction of the Regulations, but Government, apprehensive that this could not be carried out without employing a Military force, discountenanced the project. In 1815, the question was again discussed, but fortunately with the same result, for it cannot be doubted that our Regulation laws are ill-suited to the habits and peculiarities of the people.

In 1821, Mr. Blunt re-agitated the question, and submitted rules which he proposed to introduce. The Government dissented from some, and hesitated to adopt others, without further information; the information was never supplied, and the subject was dropped and forgotten.

The management of the Mehals was thus left, says Mr. Ricketts,

*Extract from Government Orders, dated 10th August 1821.*

The Secretary to Government in his letter to the Superintendent dated 10th August 1821, says "Interference should be chiefly confined to matters of a political nature, to the suppression of feuds and animosities prevailing between the Rajahs of adjoining Mehals, or between the members of their families, or between the Rajahs and their subordinates, to the correction of systematic oppression, violence and cruelty practised by any of the Rajahs, or by their officers, towards the inhabitants, to the cognizance of any apparent gross violation by them of their duties of allegiance and subordination, and generally to important points which, if not attended to, might tend to violent and general outrage and confusion, or to contempt of the paramount authority of the British Government."

NOTE.

The principles which Mr. Ricketts proposed were as follows :

To restrain the Rajahs from exercising the power of life and death, to make them punishable for murder, homicide, mutilation, or other gross cruelty.

To provide for the punishment of all offenders in a manner suitable to the condition of the Mehals.

To introduce gradually trial by Panchayet.

To hold the Rajahs amenable in all pecuniary transactions which may be registered in the Superintendent's office.

To regulate the course of proceeding, when claims shall be brought forward by an inhabitant of one Mehal against that of another Mehal.

entirely to the Rajahs, controlled only by the undefined authority of the Superintendent; each Superintendent acted according to rules of his own, and as a matter of course, the policy and practice varied with the individual who held the appointment, guided however, since 1821, by the instructions conveyed by the Government Orders of the 10th of August, which are quoted in the margin.

To remedy this state of things, and introduce some uniformity and consistency of proceeding, Mr.

Ricketts submitted a draft of Penal and Civil rules for the management of the Killahs, in which he also defined the authority which the Rajahs, as Criminal and Civil Judges, might exercise in their own Countries.

These rules were disapproved, as being in their general scope of too extensive a nature, and involving more interference than was desirable, and as leading to weaken injuriously the influence of the Rajahs over their subjects, and I was directed to revise them, on the principles explained in the letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of

India, in the Legislative Department, dated the 25th November 1839, No. 470, which interdicted the Rajahs from inflicting the punishment of death, or any other punishment contrary to the principles of English law, from committing enormities upon the people of their countries, or harassing or attacking their neighbours, and enjoined as little interference as possible in matters either of Civil or Criminal justice. I adopted Mr. Ricketts' rules as my groundwork, modifying only such parts as involved too great an interference in the general administration of Civil and Criminal justice, and adding some suggestions of my own, the principal of which provided for the abolition of Merriah sacrifices, and the inhuman rite of Suttee, but the Government of India considering them to be by far too minute and precise to work well, directed me to

Rule 1 declares the Rajahs cannot exercise the power of life and death.

Rule 2 abolishes the practice of Suttee, and human sacrifices, and declares all persons convicted of aiding and abetting in such practices, guilty of culpable homicide.

Rule 3 prohibits Rajahs from engaging in hostilities with their neighbours.

Rule 4 empowers Superintendent to take cognizance of charges of murder, homicide, torture, robbery, or other crimes of enormity, by whomsoever committed, and to try any criminal whom the Rajahs may commit to him for trial.

Rule 5 restricts the interference of the Superintendent, in other matters of criminal justice, to the suppression of feuds and animosities between Rajahs, between members of their families, or between the Rajahs and their subjects, to the correction of systematic oppression, to the cognizance of any violation of their duties of allegiance and subordination, and generally to important points, which if not attended to, might lead to general outrage or confusion, or to contempt of the authority of Government.

Rule 6 gives the Rajahs control over their subjects, with authority to Superintendent to interfere in extreme cases.

Rule 7 vests the Superintendent with the cognizance of all criminal offences in attached Killahs, as well as all offences committed by the inhabitants of any Gurjat Mehal within the boundaries of another Gurjat Mehal, and by all persons not inhabitants of the Gurjat.

Rule 8 declares Rajahs to be liable to such punishment as the Government may deem adequate, extending to death and confiscation of their country in cases of murder, and in other cases, to such punishment in person or property as may seem fitting.

Rule 9 provides for the transmission of proceedings to Government in cases of murder and other heinous crimes proved against the Tributary Rajahs.

Rule 10 holds the Rajahs answerable for all property stolen within their Territories under certain circumstances.

Rule 11 provides for the conduct of trial in the form and manner prescribed by the Regulations.

“draw out some short,  
“clear, and well defined  
“rules, making the Rajahs responsible to the  
“Superintendent in cases  
“of murder, homicide,  
“and other heinous offences, without however  
“interfering so far as to  
“make them amenable  
“to the Civil Court of  
“the Superintendent, in  
“cases between the Rajahs  
“and their creditors.”

Rules revised on the above principle were accordingly submitted; the Government of India thought it better not to pass any regular and defined rules, at least for the present, but directed the Superintendent to shape his conduct by the spirit of those proposed, the substance of which, with the modifications implied



Rule 12 gives the power to Superintendent to sentence offenders, not Rajahs, to imprisonment for 7 years ; any severer punishment which it is proposed to inflict, to be reported for confirmation.

Rule 13 provides for sentences to be carried into execution under the provisions of Section 3, Regulation IX. of 1822. (Note—They are to be reported half-yearly for formal confirmation.)

Rule 14 provides for the trial of any British subject for an offence committed in the Gurjat, before any of the established Courts of Justice, if deemed advisable.

Rule 15 authorizes the Superintendent to call on the Rajah to appear before him in person, or by Mookhtear, to answer any charge which may be preferred against him, and provides for the trial of the case according to the spirit of the Regulations.

Rule 16 interdicts the Superintendent from enforcing the personal attendance of the Rajah without the permission of Government.

Rule 17 requires Rajahs to deliver up to the Superintendent any fugitives charged with heinous offences who may conceal themselves in their Estates.

Rule 18 permits the Superintendent to exercise discretionary interference and authority in cases not provided for in the Rules.

in the Government Orders, I have, for the sake of perspicuity, given in the margin.

Guided by these rules, it has been my constant aim to abstain, as much as possible, from all gratuitous and unnecessary interference with the Chiefs in their affairs, except where I could interpose my authority to encourage or promote an amicable adjustment of disputes.

The Government having disapproved of Mr. Ricketts' proposal to interfere with the Rajahs and their creditors, I notified to the public my determination to refuse to listen to all claims against the Rajahs for the recovery of their debts, and I have rigidly adhered to it.

The Merchants, who are chiefly Upcountry Putthans and Affghans have, in some instances, endeavoured to realize their dues by force, and so misconducted themselves, as to compel me to expel them from the Killahs; but the system is working well, and is operating to the advantage of both seller and buyer; the former now demands cash for his goods, and the latter gets them at a fair and reasonable price, instead of paying, as formerly, double and treble their value. As no reply has been received to my letter, reporting on the petition of Neeaz Gool Khan, dated 6th January 1846, No. 32, I am led to conclude that this non-interference plan has met the sanction of Government.

I have spared no exertion to put an end to the atrocious system of Suttee and Merriah sacrifice. The rules touching the former were specially notified to the Rajahs, and the notice was again repeated on receipt of the Honorable the Court of Directors' despatch, dated 29th of September 1841, enjoining its abolition.

A penal engagement was also taken from the Bewartah of each Killah, binding him to prevent any female being burnt, in the event of the death of his Rajah.

The first violators of the prohibition were the dependants of the Rajah of Khundiapparrah, who on the occasion of the Rajah's death, permitted two of his wives and two slave girls to become Suttees. They were punished with fine and imprisonment, and to mark further the displeasure of Government, the Estate was brought under the protection of the Superintendent, during the period of the heir's minority.

The example had no doubt its due effect, in inducing the representatives of the Rajahs of Burramba, Hindole, and Duspullah, to prevent the widows of their deceased husbands from destroying themselves.

In the case of Hindole I was compelled to interpose my authority, as the widow of the deceased Rajah was reported to have shewn an invincible resolution to sacrifice herself, and the successor to the deceased feared to thwart her wishes, except under my express injunctions.

The Rajah of Duspullah, who interfered to dissuade four Ranees and four slave girls from becoming Suttees, received the acknowledgments of Government for his praiseworthy conduct.

But it must not be supposed that the Rajahs have evinced any over-earnestness to stop the practice, or that it will not, where practicable, be again followed.

The Rajahs of Mohurbunje and Keonjhur, the two most powerful Chieftains in my Superintendency, remonstrated against the prohibition, as opposed to the tenets of their religion; so distant are these Territories from Cuttack, and so little is known of what goes on there, that Suttees may, and possibly do take place, though I would fain hope that the terror of punishment has checked its frequency, even in these haunts of superstition.

The practice of sacrificing human beings to the Earth God, is confined to the Khond regions of Boad and Duspullah, and as these Killahs have been transferred to an Officer specially appointed for its suppression, I need not detail the proceedings of my Assistant, Lieutenant Hicks, in his endeavours to induce the Khonds to forego the barbarous and unholy rite; conciliation was relied on as the sole instrument for effecting it, but it was only partially successful; when argument ceases to operate, demonstration of, and if unavoidable, an appeal to force is required, but Lieutenant Hicks was denied even an escort, and his missions therefore lost the impression they would have created, if he had been accompanied by a small number of Troops. Considering we have to deal with the prejudices of a whole population to suppress a time-honoured rite, sanc-

tified by their religious faith, is it surprising that the Khonds would not tacitly submit to an interference, involving the destruction of all that is cherished and revered by them ?

Captain Macpherson's first campaign was not successful. The Boad Khonds voluntarily agreed to give up the sacrifice, and to submit to the general authority of Government, but it is said that the Rajah and his uncle impressed them with the idea that Government cared nothing about the sacrifice, and only wanted to tax the hill country, and would moreover give up that, if a general demonstration of resistance were made. They rose accordingly, attacked Captain Macpherson, and compelled him to give up the children he had rescued, and to leave the country. The Khonds, on the other hand, maintained that the seizure of their adopted children and ploughmen as Merriahs, and the fear of taxation by the Rajah, drove them to resist; but whatever the cause may have been which stirred them to revolt, I feel convinced, from what I learnt in my late visit to Angool, that they are keeping up their resistance, not for the sake of maintaining the atrocious rite, which they appear to have made up their minds to give up, but for the protection of their rights and privileges, which they ignorantly imagine it is the desire of Government to aid the Rajah in abrogating. I induced the youngest son of Nubbogun Khouro to give himself up, and the Rajah of Angool to aid us, and not the Khonds, whom he had been supporting in a manner to make them so presumptuous, as to plunder some of the Goomsur villages. Affairs now seem to be in a favorable train if only given time to work. Captain Dunlop, Commanding the Paik Companies, has been deputed to Boad, to aid Captain Macpherson in his operations. The

NOTE.—Since this was written an insurrection has broken out in Khondistan of Goomsur, headed by Chukro Bissoee and the Khonds of Boad, many of those who had submitted have taken up arms. See my Reports to Government.

Rajah of Angool has executed an agreement not to give any assistance to the Boad Khonds, nor to afford an asylum in his country to Chukro Bissoee, nor to any of the Boad or Duspullah Khonds. Chukro Bissoee has lived in Angool since 1837, and is now said to have joined Birkhonro.

Boundary disputes are the most fertile source of animosity in the Killahs. I have used my best endeavors to repress the disposition which I found to exist on the part of the Rajahs and their dependants and others, who are interested in fomenting discord and involving their chiefs in embarrassment, to get up these cases, and not without success, if the small

number of disputes and the fact of no pitched battles having been fought, since I have been Superintendent, be any criterion to judge by. In former times, fights were of frequent occurrence; and so late as 1836, the Rajahs of Tigereah and Banki had an engagement, in which 3 lives were lost and 12 persons were wounded.

The most satisfactory mode of adjudicating disputes of the above nature, which are mostly about tracts of valueless jungle, would be to go to the spot and dispose of them, but the local situation of the disputed villages, their distance from Cuttack, the nature of the country and insalubrity of the climate (except at stated seasons, when I am generally on circuit) have sadly interfered with my carrying out this plan. I have persuaded the parties in some cases to adjust their disputes by arbitration; this course of proceeding is not however in favor; the Rajahs are too ignorant and too proud to submit to the decision of any other than the controlling authority.

I have found immediate attachment of the disputed land, the most effectual means of suppressing disturbances, deputing a Chupprasee with a suitable number of Peadahs, who are paid by the parties, to see that the order is duly enforced, and to keep the peace between the belligerents.

“The Rajahs,” says Mr. Ricketts, “may occasionally be guilty of acts of cruelty and oppression, but my information by no means proves them to be, in their general conduct to their subjects, either oppressive or cruel.” In these sentiments I fully concur.

The principal and most independant Rajahs, viz., those of Angool, Nyaghur, Mohurbunje and Keonjhur, are very despotic in their sway, but the introduction of the rules abovementioned, followed up as they were by the conviction of the Rajah of Banki for several atrocious murders, and by his removal from the Raj which he so disgraced, have induced a better line of conduct even in them; they are more prompt to obey orders which clash with their own interests or inclination, and are less disposed to oppress their subjects.

NOTE.—He was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and his Killah was confiscated to Government.

The other Rajahs are tractable and obedient; some of them are in the habit of seeking, and gratefully accepting, my advice on the state of their affairs; the Rajah of Dekanal, who, though one of the most peaceable, is the ruler of a very extensive territory, has had the courage to release himself from the leading-strings of his dependants, and to solicit my

intervention in measuring the cultivated and culturable lands of his Killah with the view of imposing a fair and moderate assessment, suited to the quality of the soil and the circumstances of the cultivators, he promising to discontinue the levy of arbitrary imposts and salamees. This measure of reform is in progress under the guidance of an Ex-Deputy Collector, selected by me for the duty. At the request of the Rajah I also adjusted a family quarrel of much delicacy, which was carried on with such bitterness as to give reason to apprehend that blood might be shed.

The Killah of Burumbah was also, last year, agitated by a popular commotion. The ryots complained of the Rajah's exactions, and the Rajah of their refractory behaviour. With the concurrence of both parties I took the Killah under Khas management, and deputed Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae to settle each village separately with the head men, and mediate the differences. This was satisfactorily effected, and at the close of the year I gave back the Estate into the Rajah's charge.

There is also reason to hope that the possession of Banki is from its situation, operating gradually, but effectually, in working a reform of the general spirit of administration in the neighbouring Estates, and adding to the influence of Government over them. The Estate has been surveyed, a fair and equitable settlement of the revenue has been made, and the rights of the people have been secured; the change is hailed with general satisfaction, and the oppressed subjects of other Killahs find in Banki a sure place of refuge and protection.

I consider what little has been done towards advancing the march of civilization in the Tributary Mehals and drawing their inhabitants within the pale of law and good order, is only the commencement of a great work, which our duty and our interest alike require us to go on with, and which, much to our reproach, has been long neglected. Mr. Ricketts remarked that we might, without much difficulty, introduce the Regulations immediately in some of the Mehals, and so no doubt we might, but would it be to the advantage of the people? A modified system, free from some of the concomitant evils of our code, and on a level with the understandings of the people, and containing moreover an effective provision for the protection and security of life and property, would be an important benefit to those Estates, when they shall have attained a more civilized condition: The inhabitants of the hills are characterized by Sterling, as more sullen, inhospitable, shy, and uncivilized than their fellows

of the plain ; the latter are certainly far in advance of the former. The Paiks of the hills, he remarks, “ combine with the most profound barbarism “ and the blinded devotion to the will of their chiefs, a ferocity and un- “ quietness of disposition, which render them an important and formidable “ class of the population of the hills.” I think therefore that the introduction of our Civil and Criminal Code would not be adapted to the present state of society, nevertheless I am of opinion that much may be effected in paving the way for it, by adopting such measures as will extend the beneficial influence which it is in our power to exercise over the Rajahs, and as will put the relations of Government with these Chiefs on a better footing, and accelerate the progress of civilization. For the present all that can be done, and which I would suggest for early adoption, is to exercise a greater degree of personal intercourse with them. The constant occupation of the Superintendent’s time is an insuperable bar to the attainment of this object, and I would therefore suggest to my successor that he solicit Government to appoint the Commandant of the Paik Companies, his Assistant, who should be required to qualify himself by learning the language and acquainting himself with the state of the country, and the character of the inhabitants. I would propose to employ him some months in every year in travelling through the countries, disposing of boundary quarrels, mediating between the Rajahs and their ryots, and using his best endeavours to induce the Rajahs to devote a serious and heartfelt attention to the welfare of their subjects, and the improvement of the resources of their respective countries. Any good which I may have been the means of effecting, has resulted from considerable intercourse with the Chiefs, though unhappily it has been confined to those residing within a short distance of Cuttack.

The Rajahs are in the habit of levying customs duties on the transit of grain through their Districts. Mr. Commissioner Ker, standing on the 5th Article of their engagement with Government, put down the practice. I found the system had been revived, and have endeavoured to repress it, but I fear not successfully. In Autmullick, which was transferred to Cuttack in 1837, imposts have been always levied, and the engagement contains no stipulations that warrant prohibitory interference. The Rajahs generally strive to evade the order, on the pretext of demanding Chowkeydaree fees for the protection of the life and property of travellers. The Rajah of Angool is the foremost and most systematic violator. He has established a Chokey at Tickerparrah, on

the Mahanuddi, where the river is not 200 yards broad, and collects, I am informed, some thousands of rupees per annum, from the boats passing to and fro.

I consider the opening of roads through uncivilized and jungly countries as the greatest auxiliary of civilization, and a most efficient instrument in putting down rebellion; it should go hand in hand with education, that handmaid of good Government, to the diffusion of which we must mainly look for improving the state of the Tributary Mehals. With regard to roads, there are but four passable ones in the Tributary Mehals, and three of them scarcely deserve the name. There is one leading from Ganjam to Nagpoor, *viâ* Sumbulpoor, passing through Nyaghur, and debouching on the Mahanuddi at Kuntillo; secondly, a road from Cuttack to Kuntillo; thirdly a road from Cuttack along the Juggernath road for about 36 miles, and from thence striking off to the left, and passing through Keonjhur and Mohurbunje to the Bombay Post road. Troops have not marched on it, I believe, since 1821; fourthly, the Bombay posting road from Midnapore to Sumbulpoor, passing through Mohurbunje, Keonjhur and Pal Lera.

Government have expended large sums of money in making the latter road. The Rajahs, in the first instance, received a remission in their tribute to induce them to repair it and clear the jungle, and they afforded every assistance in their power to further the views of Government, but when Government resolved to open a more direct route, and they found that it would pass near their residences, they became alarmed, and fancying that their welfare depended on their having impenetrable jungles around their dwelling, they tried every expedient to mislead and obstruct the operations of the Government officers. The proceedings of the officers gave, in some instances, just cause for offence, they interfered with the price of grain and labor, and they brought the road within a few hundred yards of the Rajah of Keonjhur's palace. While threats of the displeasure of Government were denounced and fines were imposed on the Rajahs and their dependants, who were convicted of a specific offence, the grievances complained of by the Rajahs were inquired into, and as far as possible remedied, but the only result of these strenuous exertions is, I regret to say, that the road is to be kept up for only Postal purposes, and to be reduced from 20 feet to 6 feet in breadth.

It is not too much to say that one-fourth of the enormous expense to which Government was subjected before the Khasi hills were opened to



down and tranquillity was restored, would not have been incurred, had the fine road which runs through that country and connects Cuttack with Ganjam, been then in existence; indeed it may be doubted whether under such circumstances the inhabitants, notwithstanding all the ill-treatment they received, would have risen in revolt.

The opening of the Burmool defile was suggested by Lieutenant Hicks, as a measure likely to facilitate our intercourse with the Khonds, to bring the inhabitants within the influence of civilization, and to protect travellers, who are often made away with in these fastnesses. The measure was recommended by me to Government, but it has, I imagine, either escaped notice or been referred for the opinion of Captain Macpherson, to whom the Duspullah territory, in which this defile is situated, has been transferred.

The state of instruction among the inhabitants of the Tributary Mehals is very low, the education of the Chieftains is purposely neglected or kept in the back ground; it is the interest of their designing servants to steep them in indolence and gross debauchery, in short "to bring them up in such ignorance and with such habits of dissipation as will leave it in their power to engross the management and control over their Estates."

As regards the education of the people, the time is, I fear, far distant when the march of intellectual improvement will reach these wilds; it is hardly yet commenced in the plains, and it has not there received that encouragement from the people; because not given gratuitously, which was expected. A Vernacular School has been established at Khoordah, which is only 15 miles from Banki, and I hope to see one established in the latter place. With this view I have called on the Tuhseeldar to report on the present state of instruction, and the support which Government Schools are likely to receive from the people. Banki might be made the nucleus of education in these parts; by educating its inhabitants we should stimulate their neighbours to seek knowledge, and thus advance the progress of civilization. As Banki will indirectly contribute to improve the government of the neighbouring Killahs, so will it tend to diffuse a taste for knowledge, and by doing so, be the means of rescuing their inhabitants from moral and intellectual degradation.

But the first object of our solicitude should be the education and care of minor Rajahs. Mr. Stockwell, in a very able report, dated 9th July 1831, in which he exemplified the necessity, and luminously described the policy of this measure, recommended that the orders of Government



prohibiting an interference with the Tributary Mehals should be so far modified, as to permit the Superintendent to take under his immediate care and management the persons and Estates of minor Rajahs. The Government, though they expressed in reply their aversion to any unnecessary interference with the internal management of the Estates, authorized the Superintendent to assume the temporary charge of the Estates of minor Zemindars, when he might judge it necessary to do so “for the preservation of the peace, the realization of the Government dues, or the protection of the interests of the Zemindars.”

Khundiapparrah I took under Khas management, and persuaded the mother of the minor to allow her son to come and reside at Cuttack, where he is under the care of the mooktear, and superintendence of Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae, and studies his native language with a Pundit specially appointed to instruct him. But the seeds of idleness had taken such deep root before he came to Cuttack, that the teacher despairs of eradicating them. The boy is surrounded too by unprincipled servants, interested in encouraging indolence. I have latterly compelled him to come daily to my Kutcherry, and study under my immediate observation.

Banki and Khundiapparrah are under Khas management, but it is not to be understood from this that they are handed over to the mere charge of a Tahseeldar. Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae is entrusted with the superintendence of the Estates. He is empowered to hear and dispose of all cases of a civil, criminal and fiscal nature, connected therewith, reporting any cases of importance, as well as all those in which he recommends that punishment should be inflicted on offenders, for my orders. Banki, as stated above, was measured and surveyed. The detailed Settlement was conducted by Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae, and most judiciously was the task executed. To settle an Estate is easy enough, but to collect the rent settled, tests the merits of the officer,

and the marginal Statement will manifest at one view that he has accomplished both in a manner that does him the highest credit. In my late journey to Angool, I had an opportunity of personally witnessing the general prosperity and good order that prevailed throughout Banki; and the satisfaction which was shown

Year.	Demand.			Collections.		
1251	16,093	3	8	16,093	3	8
1252	16,534	1	10	16,506	1	5½
1253	16,562	3	8	16,235	7	7

by the people to the existing system of management. I was gratified beyond measure by witnessing the rapid increase of cultivation since the settlement; the jungle is fast disappearing, so much so that the quantity reclaimed is already estimated at 6 or 7,000 Beegahs. His management of Khundiapparrah has been also eminently successful as proved by the

Year.	Demand.			Collections.		
1251	16,412	6	8	15,587	7	8
1252	14,937	0	6	14,937	0	6
1253	15,666	10	6	15,666	10	6

results exhibited in the Statement as per margin. He visited the Killah, and adjusted the assessment on a reference to the average collections of former years, inclusive of Abwabs, which he incorporated with the jumma, and induced the heads

of villages to enter into engagements for the payment of the revenue. It requires a deep knowledge of revenue details, and the exercise of much tact to rescue the revenue affairs of these Killahs from the almost hopeless disorder and confusion into which they are generally allowed to fall.

Saul Timber abounds in the forests of Dekanal, Hindole, Nursingpore, Talchier and Angool, and the Madras Government have, since 1842, drawn a portion of their supplies therefrom. Mr. Overseer Harton, a very active, intelligent officer, is the Agent employed in procuring the timber. There is much difficulty in getting timbers of the dimension required by Government; the full sized trees nearest to the rivers have disappeared, and the Rajahs do not evince a willingness to cut those in the more distant forests, and require much persuasion to induce them to afford the requisite aid, without which no timbers of the desired dimensions can be procured. Again, the labor of the Coolies employed by the Rajahs to remove the timber is compulsory and unremunerated; on the other hand if they be employed by the Agent, the Rajah or his servants exact a portion of their hire. They are therefore not overwilling to lend a helping hand. I have, in my letter, dated 22nd June 1846, to the address of the Commissary General of Madras, recommended a reduction of the minimum standard to 16 feet in length, and 22, instead of 24 inches in diameter, as fixed by him, but no reply has up to this time been received. I have further suggested that the timber be drawn from the forests at the expense of Government, and that 50 pairs of strong Buffaloes be purchased for the purpose, and kept in Sarindah, Killah Banki, where the pasturage is good and water abundant.

In Golah Banki in 1845.	44,193 20 5
In Golah Tanghi in 1844.	25,757 20 0
In Golah Tanghi in 1843.	23,286 35 6

The Rajahs of the Tributary Mehals have each agreed to take a fixed quantity of Salt for their annual supply. Finding that many of them did not act up to their agreements, it has latterly been my practice to call on them for an explanation of the deficiency between the quantity they have indented for and that which they had said would be needed. In order further to facilitate a supply of Salt for the consumption of the independent States adjacent to the Mahanuddi, the Salt Golah of Tanghi was, with the sanction of Government, removed to Banki, and was opened on the 1st January 1845, for the retail of Kurkutch Salt, at the rate of 1 rupee, 8 annas, per Maund. The experiment has answered my fullest expectations, as the Comparative Statement given in the margin will demonstrate.

The Mohurbunje Rajah is not allowed to take Salt in excess of the 15,000 Maunds, at 2-5 per Maund, prescribed for consumption in his territory, except at an increased rate, or 3-12 per Maund. He was permitted to take 20,000 Maunds in 1842, on the supposition that the 15,000 Maunds were inadequate to the wants of the country, but as there was every reason to believe that the excess was sold by him in the Jellasore Chokeys, where the selling price was 3 rupees 12 annas, the indulgence was withdrawn. It was my intention to have recommended that Banki should, at the conclusion of the detailed settlement, be brought under the operation of the General Regulations, and the Golah be placed under the orders of the Salt Agent in Cuttack, but further experience having convinced me that our Code of Laws was not yet adapted to the character and circumstances of the people, I suggested the continuance of the present system of management, and the Golah therefore is in charge of a Darogah under the supervision of the Deputy Collector, subject to my immediate control, the Char and Rowannah system, with its rules and regulations, being duly enforced.

The Magistrate of Pooree is ex-officio an Assistant to the Superintendent in Mehals Nyaghur and Runpoor, and the Magistrate of Balasore in Mohurbunje, Keonjhur and Nilghur.

There is a suit for the recovery of a large tract of land on the borders of Keonjhur and Sookindah. The former is a Tributary Estate, the latter is a Killah paying a quit rent in perpetuity subject to the Regulations. The

lands were decreed after a summary investigation by Mr. Commissioner Stockwell to be within Keonjhur. The Rajah of Sookindah, who was then a minor, has instituted a regular suit under Regulation XI. of 1816. I have, with reference to Construction 864, entertained it and intended to visit the spot, to test the correctness of the local inquiry held by the Ameen, but unavoidable circumstances having prevented me from doing so, I have desired the Magistrate to depute Mr. T. B. Mactier to proceed to the spot and report his opinion on the merits of the case.

(Signed) A. J. MOFFATT MILLS,  
*Commissioner.*

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## A P P E N D I X.

| Name of Killah. | Jumma paid to Government.    | Estimated rent roll, as received by the Rajah including all cesses and exactions. | Supposed Area in Square Miles. |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Runpoor, .....  | Rs. 1,313    As. 4    P. 6.1 | Rs. 15,000                                                                        | 200                            |

This Killah is bounded on the North, South, and East by Khoordah, and on West by Nyaghur. The march from Tanghi to the Killah is about 10 miles, through a dense jungle, except near Runpoor, where the country is open. The Rajah has no fort, he can muster between 2,000 or 3,000 Paiks, of whom a considerable number are armed with match-locks.

The Rajah's grand-father was the eldest of twenty-five sons. There are now nearly a hundred of the family all living together. The present Rajah is about 24 or 25 years old, and succeeded to the Raj in 1844, and the first act of his dependants was to stir up strife between the Rajah and his Uncle, who had administered the affairs of the Killah in the life time of his father. They accused him of having misappropriated the revenue, and strove to dispossess him of a portion of the lands which had been allotted to him for the support of himself and family. I invited the parties to meet me at Pooree; they came, but it was not until I had inquired into the Uncle's claim to the land, and satisfying myself of its justness, maintained him in possession of his Jagheers, and forbidden the Rajah to interfere with them, that I brought the latter to reason. The disputes were then settled, and the Uncle has since become the manager of the Killah. He has now turned the tables on his accusers, by dismissing Muddoosudun Patnaik, the fomentor of the quarrels, from his situation as Bewartah, and has further charged him with organizing a resistance to his authority. I summoned the Bewartah, and as a precautionary measure took a penal engagement from him not to tamper with the people and set them against the Rajah, but it has not succeeded. The ryots have already come in, in a large body, to complain against the Rajah's alleged exactions and oppression.

In 1824, the Rajah's father sent an army of 2,000 Paiks to attack and capture 5 Ghurs of Nyaghur, in the prosecution of which 25 persons were killed and 31 wounded, and property valued at 10,000 rupees, plundered. The Rajah was fined 10,000 rupees, of which 5,000 rupees was awarded as compensation to the Rajah of Nyaghur.

The present Rajah of Runpoor is of good disposition.

| Name of Killah, | Tribute.                    | Estimated rent roll, as received by the Rajah including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Nyaghur, .....  | Rs. As. P.<br>5,179 14 16.1 | Rs.<br>35,000                                                                  | Square Miles.<br>1,900 |

Nyaghur has Runpoor on the East, Khoordah on the North, Goomsur on the South, and Duspullah on the West; the direct route is *viâ* Runpoor, Simakola and Etamuttee; the road from Runpoor to Etamuttee is practicable for carts. Mr. Ricketts visited the Rajah's Ghur in 1836, and has given the following description of it. "We marched this morning from the last ground through Nyaghur, going in by the East entrance and coming out by the West. From the entrance of the bamboo jungle to the Fort or village cannot be less than 1½ to two miles. The bamboo jungle lasts for about ½ a mile, then underwood for a short distance, where there is a small plain and a village, then more thick bamboos, and you come to the first gate; through it you see two roads, that to the left is the direct road to the Ghur. You then pass through, except by the path, impenetrable bamboo jungle for a short distance, the path broad enough for four to walk abreast; the bamboos gradually change for trees and very thick underwood, and the path becomes narrower and deeper, till at last there is but room for one to walk, and the banks are upwards of 30 feet deep; this lasts for ½ a mile, when you come to a breast work with a very sudden ascent. After having passed this, the pass is a little more open, but very rocky and difficult, till it opens on the village. The road from the West, by which the Ghur can be approached either *viâ* Kullyanpoor or Duspullah, is not so difficult by any means as that from the South, though it is a mere path for some miles through jungle, and in two or three places sunk 5 or 6 feet deep, with at different places two breast works. These breast

“ works are now mere heaps of mud, but there is abundance of stone,  
 “ if it should be considered desirable to strengthen them ; an attack  
 “ upon the place should never be attempted without Pioneers and  
 “ Artillery ; it would be necessary to fill in the *roads* as you passed  
 “ along to get them up ; all this time the force would be suffering from  
 “ people in the jungle, well defended ; a great many lives would be  
 “ lost ; the Ghur itself is commanded by hills on both sides covered  
 “ with jungle. On no account should force ever be employed against this  
 “ Rajah without it is absolutely unvoidable, there is nothing to be gained.  
 “ I believe to take it would cost more than the country would yield in  
 “ 10 years, could it be managed at no expense. The march to Mirza-  
 “ pore is easy enough by the road through the Ghur, by the direct route  
 “ the road is very good, and passable with ease both for Elephants and  
 “ Hackeries ; parts of it are jungly and in parts a fine road through the  
 “ plains between the Hills.”

The Rajah is a peaceable and tractable subject, but his proceedings have not been always satisfactory. In violation of 6th Article of his engagements, he protected the rebel Juggobundoo many years, and only gave him up when a pardon was granted ; he also afforded shelter to several others of the most active leaders in the Khoorda disturbances ; he is a despotic chief, and there is little doubt that oppression and violence are carried on to an appalling extent in his country. The Rajah has been suspected of committing murders, but the charges broke down for want of proof ; not an individual dare give information injurious to his chief ; indeed it is hopeless to expect to bring home any enormity committed by a Rajah, or with his sanction, without in the first instance, removing the former from the country and assuming temporary management thereof, pending the enquiry into the case. This was fully exemplified in the Banki case, it was not till I had brought the Rajah into Cuttack, that a tittle of evidence was obtained.

In 1828 a thief was put to death by the Rajah's order, without trial ; he claimed the right to exercise the power of life and death in such cases, and though the claim was disallowed, it was not considered expedient to punish him, in consequence of the undefined extent of the authority vested in these Chieftains at that time. This anomaly has been now remedied.

The Rajah can muster from 6 to 7,000 Paiks. He is a powerful Chieftain.

| Name of Killah.    | Tribute.                  | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.       |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Khundiapparrah,... | Rs. As. P.<br>3,948 5 2.2 | Rs.<br>20,000                                                                  | Square Miles.<br>300 |

Khundiapparrah is bounded on the North by the Mahanuddi, on the South by Nyaghur, on the East by Banki, and on the West by Duspullah.

The Rajah is a minor, and the Killah is under the Superintendent's protection. Rampersaud Rae, Deputy Collector, who visited the Killah, and settled each village, is entrusted with the immediate supervision of the Tuhseeldar's proceedings in all departments. The Surburakars and ryots appear satisfied and contented, and pay their rents with the greatest punctuality; the Jumma Wasil Bakee for 1253 shows no balance against a demand of rupees 15,056-10-6.

The Rajah's Ghur is surrounded by a heavy bamboo jungle, but it is not a strong place, not possessing any fort or breast work. Kuntillo, on the banks of the Mahanuddi, is a populous place: it contains a large bazar, and carries on a considerable trade in Cotton, Sugar, Coconuts, Grain, and Cloths.

The country is open, with extensive pasturage and cultivated lands, growing Sugar, Cotton, Rice, &c. The force of Paiks is stated at 2,000.

| Name of Killah.    | Tribute.                   | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.      |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Nursingpoor, ..... | Rs. As. P.<br>1,364 8 15.1 | Rs.<br>12,000                                                                  | Square Miles<br>250 |

To the South is Khundiapparrah and Duspullah, West, Joormool in Duspullah, North, Hindole, East, Barumba.

This Killah is on the North bank of the Mahanuddi, which river separates it from Khundiapparrah and Duspullah.

The Rajah is a young man, 25 or 26 years of age, sharp, intelligent, and well meaning, and has given no trouble, but his principal official, Boleerae Goroo, is a man of bad repute.



The Paik force is estimated at 1,500—the country near the river is open and the lands fertile, growing every kind of crop, amongst which are Sugar and Cotton, but the extent is very limited; the interior is nothing but mountains and dense jungle. The Rajah's Ghur is not fortified.

Saul timber, of good size, is procurable in the forests, and the Rajah has this season engaged to furnish 50, for the Madras Government.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                      | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Barumba, .....  | Rs. 1,310    As. 9    P. 10.1 | Rs. 12,000                                                                     | Square Miles.<br>150 |

To the South of this Killah is the Mahanuddi; East, Tigereah; North, Dekanal and Hindole; West, Nursingpore.

The Mahanuddi river divides the Killah from Khundiapparrah and Banki.

The Rajah is a young man, but grossly stupid and entirely in the hands of his ministers. His father incurred heavy debts, to discharge which he made over (with the consent of my predecessor) the management of his Killah to Gungadhur Bharthee, on the security of the Rajah of Nyaghur. The manager, or farmer, agreed to pay into the Superintendent's office, the sum of 8,500 rupees for five years; the debts, amounting to 17,540 rupees, were paid off, and at the termination of the period, the present Rajah assumed possession of the Raj. The Rajah of Nyaghur has sued the Rajah to recover rupees 18,442-2-10 on account of principal, interest, and compensation for becoming surety; he claims rupees 10,317-2-10, in accordance with the spirit of his engagement, on the grounds that the assets of the property showed a total deficiency to that amount. The prosecutor has been called on to produce documentary proof.

To rescue matters from the disorder into which they had been plunged by the disagreements which the Rajah had with his Surburakars, the Raj was attached during the last year and the collections were made by a Tuhseeldar, who paid the sums he collected into the Rajah's hands and transmitted me his receipts. The assessment was fixed by Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae, at rupees 5,409-15-10,\*

\* This is exclusive of Jagheer and other lands held by the family.

of which 5,305 rupees were collected and paid to the Rajah; there is reason to fear that the seeds

of discord have taken too deep root to admit of speedy eradication;

extortion has in some measure been prevented by the ryottee demand having been for once fixed and known, but no control or interference on our part can supply the place of the natural check upon the Rajah, which follows popular commotions, and the people of this Killah are not backward to form combinations and resist oppression.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                  | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.    |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tigereah, ..... | Rs. 826    As. 13    P. 9 | Rs. 8,000                                                                      | Square Miles. 150 |

This is the smallest of the independant Killahs, it is bounded on the North by Dekanal and Hindole, on the South by Banki, on the West by Nursingpore, on the East by Autgurrh and Sarindah Banki.

The Rajah is 20 or 22 years of age, but sadly deficient in intelligence, he is guided entirely by his ministers. The lands near the river are productive, but the interior is all hills and jungle. The villages on the banks of the river are intermingled with those of Banki. The Rajah's residence is in a thick jungle, but is not fortified.

In 1836, the Rajah of Banki and Tigereah invaded each others territories, as mentioned at page 64. The disturbances themselves scarcely deserve notice, were it not that they afford evidence of the extreme jealousy with which these Chieftains guard their rights, and of the strong feeling of clanship which pervades all classes; they show also how prone they are to indulge every sort of passion, to the full extent which the means of physical force possessed by each individual permits, and how necessary it is to act promptly and decisively when any cause of disagreement between neighbouring Chieftains arises; if not immediately stopped, it is sure to spread.

It appeared that a bullock of a Banki ryot was carried off by a Tigereah ryot. The animal was demanded of the Sirdar of the village, but he refused to give it up, on the plea that it had been purchased. On this the Banki Rajah drove off two buffaloes belonging to Tigereah, which the Tigereah people resented, by driving off 22 head of cattle of Banki. —The Banki Rajah made a similar reprisal, and a few days after the Tigereah Paiks attacked and plundered 14 Banki villages. The Banki Paiks sacked, burnt, and otherwise destroyed, in return, 31 villages in Tigereah, which attacks were attended with the loss of

life already mentioned. Mr. Ricketts, deeming reconciliation a surer means than punishment, of inducing them to live in peace, dictated the following terms, to which both acceded and became friends,—“ restitution, by both parties, of all property of every sort and description plundered, and a donation of 5 Beegahs of land to each wounded man, and of 16 Beegahs to the sons of the killed.”

The Paik force of this Killah musters 400.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                     | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.    |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Banki, .....    | Rs. 4,162    As. 4    P. 7.2 | Rs. 30,000                                                                     | Square Miles. 750 |

The Rajah of this Killah is deservedly doomed to linger out the remnant of his days in imprisonment; his career was one of tyranny, cruelty and wholesale murder, and already have the beneficial effects of the moderate and equitable principles on which the assessment was fixed been most strikingly felt by the mass of the people, as evinced by the rapid extension of cultivation, and the grateful acknowledgments of the ryots themselves.

The Estate was professionally surveyed by Lieutenant Smyth, who tested and passed the native measurements, and Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae conducted the detailed settlement.

A detailed account of the manner in which the assessment was adjusted is given in the memorandum which accompanied my letter to Government, dated 25th September 1840. The Estate contains an area of acres 74,103-24-2, of which 20,211-5-2 is cultivated and 2,640-22-13 culturable; it consists of two divisions, one on the south side of the Mahanuddi, and the other (but much lower down) on the north side. The staple crop is Rice, but some Tobacco, Sugarcane, the oleaginous seeds and the common pulses are also grown; the abwabs and customs have been abolished, the demand on each ryot's holding, both Thannee, Chandina and Pahee, has been determined and fixed. Moderate and

equitable rates\* have been imposed on the lands, regulated with reference to the quality of the soil, advantages of situation, and the rates

\* The general average is 15 annas, 9 pie per Acre.

of Khoordah; the Jagheers of six Dullais and forty-nine Paiks have been confirmed; Pottahs and Kabooleuts have been interchanged with all classes of ryots; the resumed Jagheers of the Rajah's distant connexions,

servants, Burkundazes and Paiks have been settled with the occupants at half rates, and in the case of the Rajah's relatives and principal officers, in perpetuity, subject to forfeiture for misbehaviour; the rent-free and tunkee land which we found on taking possession of the country, to be bonâ fide held as such, were confirmed; the Khanabarrees of Paiks, Soors and Kooshbash ryots have been exempted from rent charges; the villages have been settled for the period of ten years with the Surburakars or head men, they receiving an allowance, varying from 10 to 20 per cent., according to the circumstances and peculiarities of each village, for the trouble and responsibility they undertake; the profits arising from cultivating Tola lands have been given to the Surburakars, and those derived from reclaiming such lands, to the parties who render them productive.

With the deduction in favor of the Surburakars from the gross assets,

|                                                                    |       |   |   |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---|---|---------------------------|
| Rajah's maintenance in Prison per annum, Rs.                       | 240   | 0 | 0 | the sudder jumma comes    |
| Cook and attendants,.....                                          | 180   | 0 | 0 | to rupees 16,393-7-4, and |
| Allowance for the support of 6 Ranees }<br>at 30 Rupees each,..... | 2,160 | 0 | 0 | with the deductions spe-  |
| 12 Domestic Slaves at 5 Rupees, .....                              | 720   | 0 | 0 | cified in the margin, the |
| Tuhseeldaree and Police charges, .....                             | 2,039 | 8 | 0 | net Government demand     |

is rupees 10,503-15-4, which was confirmed, by Government Orders No. 179, of the 6th of November 1844, from 1252 to 1260.

The Tuhseeldar, who exercises the power of a Darogah, gets 100

One advantage which the country under native rule enjoyed, and which is now taken from it is, that the whole of the revenue of the country, save the Tribute paid to Government, whether it found its way into the Rajah's Treasury or was expended in the maintenance of Military and Civil retainers, was spent in the country itself. The establishment of our administration has of course thrown this class of people out of employment, and made the change unpopular to them. To ameliorate their condition, it has been my aim to give those qualified, employment in the country, and I have issued notices declaratory of my intention to appoint residents of the country to vacant offices, in preference to strangers, if found capable of filling them.

rupees per mensem, and is under the immediate superintendence of Deputy Collector Ramper-saud Rae, whose able and successful management of the Estate is conducing

to its further improvement, as well as to the happiness and prosperity of the people.

| Name of Killah.   | Tribute. |     |    | Estimated rent roll, as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.       |
|-------------------|----------|-----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Autgurh (former,) | Rs.      | As. | P. | Rs.                                                                             | Square Miles.<br>200 |
|                   | 6,848    | 8   | 7  | 15,000                                                                          |                      |
| „ present,        | 4,445    | 0   | 0  |                                                                                 |                      |

This Killah is bounded on the North by Dekanal and Daljoora, on the South by Sarindah in Banki, on the West by Dekanal and Tigereah, and on the East by Kukur and Mogulbundee Estates. It is on the North bank of the Mahanuddi.

It is stated that at the time of the conquest, the Killah was under the direct management of the Government officers, and that the Mahratta officers, who compiled the rent roll for the British Commissioner, maliciously overstated the demand. Be this as it may, it is indisputable, that in comparison with the peshcush of other Killahs, the tribute of Autgurbh was exorbitantly high, and it therefore will not excite surprize that the proprietors should have found great difficulty in paying their revenue with punctuality, and had become embarrassed in circumstances. In the years 1215, 1219, 1220, 1223 and 1237, the Estate was held under attachment, and at the end of 1247, I was compelled to have recourse to the same process, for recovering the Government dues. At this time the Estate was rupees 4,765-6-9 in debt to Government, and in spite of the most economical management, combined with the assignment of a very scanty allowance for the support of the Rajah and his family, I could only reduce the debt, at the end of 1251, to rupees 3,945-13-6.

The Rajah had been in the habit of discharging the revenue of each year out of the assets of the following year.

The Mofussil demand, including resumptions, came to only rupees 11,414-6-2 and as the incapacity of the Estate to pay its tribute, and at the same time to yield a fair profit to the Rajah, was undoubted, I deputed Deputy Collector Rampersaud Rae to measure the culturable and cultivated lands, and then assess them at equitable rates, suited to their quality and advantages, and to prepare a supposititious settlement, on the principle of a Mogulbundee Settlement.

The result gave a gross rental of rupees 11,414-6-2; out of this I assigned to the Zemindar half of the ryottee assets, as his proprietary right, and having half rentally settled the Lakheraj Paikun Jagheer, with their respective occupants, I allotted to the Rajah, as his share, a moiety of the product, thus reducing the tribute from rupees 6,848-8-7 to rupees 4,445-0-0. The reduction was sanctioned by Government Orders, No. 306, of the 9th of November 1845, and the Estate was restored to the proprietor free from encumbrance, at the commencement of the present year.

The Rajah is a weak-minded, ignorant person. His eldest son, who is either by a Phoolbaie or slave girl, is an intelligent young man, and the

Rajah wishes the Estate to devolve to him, but his parentage is doubtful, and the succession is claimed by the Rajah's brother.

The Baptist Missionary Society have planted a colony of Christians in this Killah. It is located in the village of Chowgong, where land is abundant and cheap, and already have this industrious class brought large tracts under crop. They are of course an object of hatred to their neighbours, and the more so, because they not only endeavour to induce them to become proselytes, but claim for their converts a right to the property they possessed at the time they changed their religion; this claim is resisted by the Rajah, as opposed to Hindoo law and the custom of his country, and as Regulation VII. of 1832, does not extend to the Tributary Estates, I have deemed it neither expedient nor politic to sanction its admission.

This Killah can muster about 1,500 Paiks.

The country is very hilly, but intersected with flourishing villages, in which rice is abundantly produced.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                   | Estimated rent roll, as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.          |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dekanal, .....  | Rs. As. P.<br>4,780 5 15.2 | Rs.<br>50,000                                                                   | Square Miles.<br>10,000 |

The boundaries of this Killah are, to the North Tigereah and Sookindah, to the East Daljoora and Autgurh, to the South Autgurh and Hindole, and to the West Hindole and Angool. The Brahmini River flows through its Western Division.

The Rajah's house is situated at the foot of a very lofty hill, and is not fortified. There is a private road across the hills, which is passable for horses, the Hackery road winds round the hill, and is 5 or 6 miles further.

The present Rajah is an adopted son. On the death of the adoptive father he was a minor, and the head servants having incited the two Ranees to quarrel as to which should be his guardian and manager, took the opportunity to empty the Treasury and Toshahkhana of property to a considerable amount. The feud was carried on until blood was shed, when three servants of Ranee Koondun Day were cruelly murdered in the presence and in defiance of the officers of Government, at the instigation of Ranee Peetibass Day and the father of the minor

Nityanund Sreechundun, who were sentenced to be imprisoned as State prisoners for life. The latter is dead and the former is in confinement at Cuttack. In consequence of a female attendant having been murdered last year in the house in which she is confined, and of it coming to my knowledge that she led a profligate life, I reduced her allowance from 106-10-8 to 30 rupees per mensem. Against this order she appealed to Government and as no reply to my report, dated 20th May 1846, has been received, I conclude the appeal has been rejected.

It may not be out of place to mention, that Ranees Peetibass Day resisted the authority of Government, and it became necessary to employ a military force in 1833 to effect her seizure and take possession of the country.

The Killah continued under the management of a Tuhseeldar with a suitable establishment to collect the rents until 1837, when after defraying the expenses incurred in the Military Department on account of the operations undertaken against the Estate, from its surplus profits, Ranees Koondun Day was put in charge, and the present Rajah relieved her in 1842.

The Rajah, though deficient in intellectual knowledge is of an extremely mild and peaceable disposition, ever pays willing obedience to the orders of the Superintendent, not unfrequently soliciting and acting up to his advice. For some time family dissensions threatened ruin to the house, the Rajah's brother endeavoured to engross the management of, and control over the Estate, the Rajah's adoptive mother resisted and quarrelled with her son, and the servants strove to widen the breach. I went to the Killah and finding that there was no hope of restoring harmony so long as the Rajah's brother usurped the management, I persuaded the Rajah to give him, and two intriguing servants of the Ranees, their dismissal and forbade their residing at the palace, since then discord has entirely ceased, and though the Rajah has been pressed to allow his brother to return, and has said he would do so, he has not only not done so, but intimated to me through a private channel that he is most averse to his return, feeling assured that it would be the prelude to further anarchy and confusion.

The Rajah continued for a long time in the power of his head man, but about a year ago he came one day suddenly to Cuttack and implored my intervention to rescue his affairs from the confusion in which they had been thrown by the misconduct of his servant. He asked me to measure and settle his Killah, but deeming that it would be

more conducive to the prosperity of his country that he should himself settle his demands on his cultivators, and that my interference should be restricted to the narrowest possible limits; I advised him to appoint Ex-Deputy Collector, Nursing Churn Doss, to conduct those duties under his own immediate supervision.

The Deputy Collector is entrusted with the collection of the Revenue (which he accounts for to the Rajah) and the measurement and settlement of the lands, the Rajah retaining the administration of the affairs, and, guided by his advice, defining and fixing the demand.

The Rajah is now engaged in visiting, in company with the Deputy Collector, the different villages, hearing the ryots objections and concluding engagements with the heads of villages, and from the desire he has shown to think and act for himself, and to devote some of his time to his affairs, I am not without hope that he will make a better ruler.

The following is an outline of the settlement as far as it has progressed :—

|                     | B.       | G. | B. |
|---------------------|----------|----|----|
| Gross Ruqba, ... .. | 1,25,690 | 21 | 11 |
| Cultivated,.....    | 62,959   | 11 | 0  |
| Culturable,.....    | 5,089    | 16 | 6  |

The Rajah has engaged in this year to supply 100 Timbers for the Madras Government.

Iron is procurable in the Hills.

I have met with a race of aborigines in this Killah which though closely allied to the Coles, Khonds, Gonds, Soors and Santal tribes differ in dress, language, customs and religion from them. I cannot in this place enter into a dissertation on the social, physical and religious condition of this people. It may be enough to say that their language is distinct from Ooriah, that they reside in the jungles, and their raiment is of the most primitive kind; the dress of the women is a branch of leaves fastened round the loins to cover their nakedness from whence they are designated "Patoah," which signifies a leaf.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute. |     |    | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area. |
|-----------------|----------|-----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                 | Rs.      | As. | P. | Rs.                                                                            | Square Miles.  |
| Hindole, .....  | 562      | 12  | 14 | 9,000                                                                          | 2,000          |



This Killah is bounded on the North and East by Dekanal, on the West by Angool, and on the South by Nursingpore.

The Rajah succeeded to the Raj in 1842. He had been expelled from the Killah by the deceased Rajah, his brother, and being absent when the latter died, his younger brother took possession of the Estate. He accordingly preferred a suit under Regulation XI. of 1826, which was compromised by his brother relinquishing to him the Killah on his agreeing to assign to him and his other brother certain villages for their support. They do not live, however, on very good terms, but since I brought them together in March last, and effected a reconciliation between them, no disagreements have been reported.

The Rajah is a weak, ignorant man, the tool of his servants, but tractable and obedient.

The Estate produces Saul timber, and the Rajah contracts for this season to supply 50 logs. The country is very hilly and jungly.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Angool, .....   | Rs. As. P.<br>1,550 6 4 | Rs.<br>25,000                                                                  | Square Miles.<br>1,250 |

This Killah is bounded on the North by the Brahmini River, on the South by the Mahanuddi, on the West by Autmullick, Bamra and Rerakole in the South-East Agency, and on the East by Hindole and Dekanal.

The Rajah is an intelligent, though eccentric man, but is withal proud and headstrong, and the most refractory of all the Chieftains, and the most likely to come in collision with the constituted authorities; he is little disposed to obey orders which clash with his imaginary rights. Whatever may happen is ascribed, says Mr. Ricketts, "to his fortune" and not his fault, and as being fortune, is to be met as it best "may, bowed to and endured." In 1831, he plundered part of the territories of the Duspullah Rajah on the left bank of the Mahanuddi, called Joormool, he was called to account for his conduct and directed to pay rupees 1,450 the value of the property plundered, but he evaded payment, though often threatened with the attachment of his country. In 1837 his servants having murdered (under his orders, it is believed) six persons in cold blood, he was called on to give up

the murderers, and on his refusing to do so, Mr. Ricketts reported his conduct to Government, who authorized him to inquire into the case and to seize by force and carry to Cuttack, any party resisting his authority. Mr. Ricketts availed himself of the presence of the military force which was marching up the Mahanuddi to co-operate with the Goomsur Commissioner in bringing the Khond war to a termination, to enforce the orders which the Rajah had so contemptuously disregarded. The Rajah then submitted and paid the money due to the Duspullah Rajah and the fine imposed on him for his disobedience.

In the past year he attacked, plundered and forcibly took possession of a village of Hindole, at a time when his right to the village was under enquiry before me. For this offence, he was sentenced to pay a fine of 3,000 rupees; he alleged that he purchased the village from the Rajah of Hindole, who on the other hand stated that he had not received the purchase money. The Government cancelled the sale on the ground that the Rajahs of the Tributary Estates are not competent to alienate any portion of their respective Estates without the authority of Government—see my letter reporting the case, dated 19th May 1846.

The Rajah insisting on his right to the village, refused to renounce his claim, and determined to oppose force by force. For the reasons stated in my letter to Government, I deputed Sheikh Waz Mahomed to settle the matter, ~~with authority~~ to give up the village to the Rajah, if the Rajah of Hindole would accede to the proposition, or in case of his refusal, if the Rajah of Angool would by due contrition and entire submission to Government show himself to be deserving of the concession. Waz Mahomed brought about an interview between the Rajahs, and adjusted their private differences, but failing to mediate the matter of the village, it was made over to the Rajah of Angool on his paying the fine, and imploring forgiveness for his misconduct. I was induced to yield the point because the sale and purchase of portions of Tributary Estates had not been formally and publicly prohibited before the transaction occurred, and I deemed it unadvisable to proceed to extremities and employ a military force and seize the Killah as the justness of our quarrel might with some show of fairness be impugned. Thus a war with this misguided Chieftain was avoided. But as from his character it may at some time be necessary to use force against him, a brief account of his Killah and means of defence will not be misplaced. It is extracted from my report to Government, dated 1st August 1846, on information supplied by Mr. Overseer Harton. “The Rajah deeming his former

“ residence insufficiently protected, abandoned it soon after he was  
 “ threatened with a visit by Mr. Ricketts in 1837, and constructed  
 “ his present abode in the most inaccessible part of his country. The  
 “ residence itself is at the foot of a hill and is unfortified, but the  
 “ main road leading to it is defended by two stockades erected on two  
 “ hills, one about two coss, and the other about half a coss from  
 “ his dwelling,” the works are of some strength, and nothing effective  
 could be accomplished against them without guns. The road to his house  
 in that direction goes through Autgurh, Dekanal and Hindole, it is ap-  
 proached also on the South by a route from Tickerparrah on the banks of  
 the Mahanuddi. Tickerparrah is under a high hill, on the top of an  
 eminence is a small fort: it is surrounded with a strong fence of poles  
 driven into the earth. Tickerparrah is about eight coss from Angool,  
 the road is for the most part open, but on nearing Angool it is very  
 difficult for troops.

The Rajah has some boundary disputes with the Dekanal Rajah, but  
 I hope to settle them before I leave. It is the practice in Dekanal and  
 Angool for the Pauns and Khundarahs of the two Killahs to take  
 advantage of any disagreements existing between their respective Lords  
 and to rob and steal in the hostile Killah; their robberies are generally  
 perpetrated with the connivance of the Rajahs who take a share of  
 the plundered property. In 1840 robberies had become so frequent in both  
 Killahs that the Dekanal Rajah complained, when I deputed an officer  
 to arrest the offenders, and recover the stolen property. He seized seven  
 Pauns of Hindole and six of Angool, who were convicted of numerous  
 thefts and robberies, and sentenced by me to various grades of imprison-  
 ment.

The Rajah's force of Paiks is stated at 6 or 7,000. He has moreover a  
 number of Mussulmen, and some discharged Sepoys and Gunners in his  
 pay, and possesses 12 guns, two of which Mr. Harton reports to be  
 mounted on wheel carriages substantially built and of a similar descrip-  
 tion to those in use with the Government troops.

Timber is abundant, but the large sized trees are said to be at a  
 distance and must be brought over the hills to the Mahanuddi river.  
 The Rajah has engaged to supply 100 Timbers this year.

The Khonds are found in Angool and Autmullick, but they owe obedi-  
 ence to the Rajah and do not practise the Merriah rite or human sacrifices.

Iron is abundant and is smelted in this Killah, as well as in Keonjhur  
 and Mohurbunje.

| Name of Killah.   | Tribute.   | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.       |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Autmullick, ..... | Rs.<br>450 | Rs.<br>8,000                                                                   | Square Miles.<br>300 |

The Killah was transferred to this Superintendency in 1837, it lies to the West of Angool on the right bank of the Mahanuddi, and is bounded on the South by that river, on the East and North by Angool, and on the West by Bamra.

The Rajah is grossly stupid and barbarous, and entirely in the hands of his servants who are almost as ignorant and uncivilized as himself. He is in very poor circumstances, and experiences much difficulty in paying his tribute. He is also at variance with two Surburakars, Bala Biswal and Bulram Gurteah. In 1844 these persons estranged themselves from the legitimate control and authority of the Rajah, and showed themselves such rebellious subjects that I deemed it necessary to fine and imprison them; on their release, finding that they still continued pertinacious, I deputed a Native officer to inquire into the resources of the villages held by them, and on ascertaining that though they paid a most inadequate rent for their tenure yet they had held long and undisturbed occupancy, and had transmitted it from father to son, I came to the conclusion that it was such a case of internal management as called for my interference. The Rajah wished to expel his feudatories, and they refused to abide by his orders, and interference was the only plan by which tranquillity seemed likely to be preserved. After a full investigation of the case I decided that the feudatories should pay an annual jumma of 433 rupees, 2 annas, 11 pie instead of 300 rupees.

The Rajah is not satisfied with the arrangement, but I trust he will see the policy of conforming to it: it is to his interest to do so.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                          | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Talchier, ..... | Rs.   As.   P.<br>974   10   16.3 | Rs.<br>12,000                                                                  | Square Miles.<br>250 |

On the North bank of the Brahmini is this Killah. It is bounded on the North by Pal Lera and Keonjhur, South by Dekanal, West by Killah Sookindah under the Regulations, and on the East by Bamra.

The Rajah is an old man verging on 80 years. He is the most acute and intelligent of all the Gurjat Chieftains. He has travelled on a pilgrimage over the greater part of Hindoostan, visiting the most celebrated Hindoo shrines, and has had much intercourse with Europeans and others, which has doubtless formed his character into that of a peaceable and obedient subject.

His son opposed his resuming possession of the Raj on his return from his pilgrimage, and went the length of using force, but the Superintendent interfered and displaced him. The Rajah punished all the Brahmins who incited his son to rebel by branding them on the forehead.

Coal beds have been discovered in this Killah. Captain Kittoe and Mr. Beatson have examined and reported on them; the latter gentleman describes the fields as above 30 miles in extent covered with stunted jungle, and composed of various kinds of sandstone and slate. The coal may be transmitted down the Brahmini River to Hunsooah, the export Salt Depôt, and from thence can be easily shipped to Calcutta. The expense of carriage is against the opening of these beds.

To the West the country is hilly and jungly. The other parts are very fertile. The lands near the Brahmini are in a high state of cultivation and produce Sugar, Tobacco and Cotton. This country also produces Saul timber, and the Rajah has promised to supply the Commissariat Department with 50 Timbers.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                   | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.          |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Keonjhur, ..... | Rs. As. P.<br>2,790 11 3.1 | Rs.<br>30,000                                                                  | Square Miles.<br>22,000 |

This extensive Territory is bounded on the North by the Cole country, South by Pal Lera and Talchier, West by Bamra and other Estates in the South-East Agency, and on the East by Nilghur, the Mogulbundee and Sookindah.

The Rajah is a minor about 15 or 16 years old, and has, I regret to say, been brought up in a lamentable state of ignorance. The river

Byturnee separates Keonjhur from Mohurbunje. Keonjhur, Nilghur, and Mohurbunje produce a variety of minerals, and are said to be worthy of Geological investigation. Stirling enumerates Talc Slate, Mica Slate, Chlorite, Shist Corind, Steatite and Meerscham. The Chlorites are used for the manufacture of culinary vessels, idols and sculpture slabs, the Corind is used for sharpening instruments, called Siladhar. The Meerscham, he says, is found in a state of pure powder, with which the Natives draw the Ticca on their foreheads. Parts of Keonjhur are very rocky and hilly, it contains however large tracts of open cultivated country interrupted by ridges of hills and patches of jungle; nothing has occurred to disturb the peace of this country for years. It is however very distant from Cuttack, and little is known of what goes on in it. The only existing quarrel is that with the Pal Lera zemindar, it is of old standing. By Government orders dated 30th of June 1840, No. 555, the zemindar of Pal Lera is allowed to pay his quit rent through this office to the Rajah of Keonjhur, and the latter is prohibited from interfering in the internal affairs of Lera, but the Keonjhur people are far from being satisfied with this decision, and are ever on the alert to find some pretext for quarrelling with the Lera subjects. There are boundary disputes now pending decision, which the great distances of the place from Cuttack have prevented me from settling. It would be useless to attempt to adjust them without visiting the disputed spots.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute.                  | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area.   |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Lera, .....     | Rs. 266    As. 10    P. 8 | Rs. 1,500                                                                      | Square Miles. 20 |

This small zemindarree is bounded on the North by Bamra; South by Dekanal and Talchier; West by Sumbulpoor; and East by Keonjhur.

The zemindar is intelligent and manages his affairs himself. The country is very hilly and jungly, the land in tillage is of small extent, and the family are in poor circumstances.

The Lera zemindar has a boundary dispute with the Talchier Rajah. I decided this on the faith of a local inquiry, but the Talchier zemindar is dissatisfied. It is believed that the Dekanal, Talchier and Keonjhur Rajahs have encroached on the original limits of Lera.

| Name of Killah.   | Tribute. |     |    | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area. |
|-------------------|----------|-----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|                   | Rs.      | As. | P. | Rs.                                                                            | Square Miles.  |
| Mohurbunje, ..... | 1,001    | 0   | 0  | 50,000                                                                         | 15,000         |

This, the largest of the Gurjat Estates, is bounded on the North by the zemindarees of the South-East Frontier, East and South by Nilghur and the Balasore and Midnapore districts, and West by Keonjhur.

The Northern part of his country is inhabited by the wild race of Coles, and has been frequently the scene of bloodshed and plundering.

In 1832 serious disturbances broke out, they originated in bad feeling and altercations between the Rajah and his feudatory, Mahub Mohapatur, the zemindar of Bhamanghattee, and related to the assertion of their relative rights and privileges in regard to four of the Peers inhabited by the Lurka Coles. These feuds were not suppressed until a military force was employed against the Mohapatur who went over to Captain Wilkinson and tendered his submission. Mr. Superintendent Stockwell desired that he should be expelled from the zemindaree as a just punishment for his rebellious conduct, but Captain Wilkinson's more conciliatory views found favor with Government, and the Mohapatur was reinstated. Mr. Superintendent Ricketts and Captain Wilkinson subsequently met and adjusted the differences between him and his superior, but peace did not long continue. In 1834-35, disturbances again broke out, the Rajah with the assistance of the Lurka Coles of two of the Peers, attacked the Mohapatur and defeated and dispossessed him of his country, but the Rajah was unable to control his lawless allies who commenced to pillage the Mohurbunje villages, and murder the inhabitants; the Dâk was plundered, the public chokeys were burnt, and for some time communication between Calcutta and Bombay was stopped.

A force was employed under Captain Wilkinson to restore peace and order. This was soon effected when it was wisely resolved to subject the revolting Coles no longer to the uncertain control of the Rajah.

The country was occupied, a strong post was established at Chainbasa, and the Coles were brought under the direct control of Government, an officer being specially appointed to administer Civil and Criminal justice amongst them. The Mohurbunje Rajah was permitted to retain his seizure of Bhamanghattee, subject to his assigning a sufficient mainte-

nance for the support of the Mohapatur and his family, who were located in Singbhoom. The Mohapatur is dead and his family have petitioned me to permit them to return to Bhamanghattee, and to resume management of their forfeited tenure. I have called on the Rajah to know whether he has any objection to the measure, but he has not responded to the call, and it would be highly impolitic to replace them in the tenure against his wishes. The Rajah appears to keep the inhabitants of the remaining Cole Peers under subjection, but strong measures are used, as indeed they are required, to control this wild race.

The Rajah himself is not an oppressive or cruel ruler ; he is an obedient and loyal subject, but jealous of any interference with his people. He is intelligent, fond of having intercourse with Europeans, and was in the habit of managing his affairs himself, but of late years he has, I fear, become too addicted to the gratification of sensual pleasures to pay that attention to his affairs which their importance demands, and trusts much to his brother who is fortunately a very respectable and influential person. When I am on circuit at Balasore and give the Rajah timely notice of my arrival, he generally comes and pays me a visit, a practice which I would recommend my successor to encourage.

Mohurbunje is a mountainous country, diversified with numerous fertile Valleys, producing an abundance of Rice, it is watered by the Byturnee, Soobunreka, and numerous other small streams near which Indigo, Sugar, Cotton and other of the more valuable products of agriculture are grown.

| Name of Killah. | Tribute. |     |     | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah, including all Cesses and Abwabs. | Supposed Area. |
|-----------------|----------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Nilghur, .....  | Rs.      | As. | P.  | Rs.                                                                            | Square Miles.  |
|                 | 5,617    | 6   | 9.2 | 16,000                                                                         | 400            |

This Killah is bounded on the North by the Mogulbundee and Mohurbunje, on the South by the Mogulbundee Hill Estates of Balasore, on the West by Keonjhur, and on the East by the Mogulbundee.

The Rajah's house is at the foot of the high hill called Nilghiri, and is about 12 miles distant from the Balasore station. At the death of the father of the present Rajah in 1832, the Killah was entrusted to the management of Sheebchurn Patnaik, brother of the Ranee, and uncle to



the present Rajah, who was then a minor, but this arrangement not answering, the management was made over to the mother of the young Rajah, her brother agreeing to hold the office of Dewan under her.

The Ranee so misgoverned the country that the people who had suffered injuries which they could no longer put up with, welcomed, if they did not invite, a distant relative of the Ranee by name Horee Baboo, whose father's claim to the Raj had been many years before relinquished by himself, to take possession of the Killah. He came, and being joined by many of the headmen and Paiks of the Killah plundered and carried away much cattle and property belonging to those who would not join him, and advanced to the Killah with the intention of murdering the Ranee and young Rajah, and taking possession of the country. The Ranee fled with her sons into the Mogulbundee, and Mr. Ricketts took a Company of the Balasore Paiks and hastened to capture the insurgents. They all decamped, but the ringleaders were eventually seized, and Horee Baboo and his brother Bullee Baboo were sentenced to two years' imprisonment. The arrangements made by Mr. Ricketts for restoring order was to banish the Ranee's brothers from the Killah, and with consent of the Ranee to appoint Goburdhun Doss Dewan, with authority to adjust the jumma of each village, and to give to all the Surburakars leases for 8 years, with an allowance of 10 per cent. on the aggregate demand for himself. He resigned in 1837, being unable, owing to the machination of the Ranee and her brothers, to administer affairs in a satisfactory manner. On this Mr. Ricketts deputed an Ameen with a party of Paiks to protect the Killah, and called the Ranee to Balasore; she eventually agreed to appoint Sahoodur Patnaik chief manager, and to remit the ryots of Khurpoor (whom she promised to reward for their good conduct in the insurrection, but failed to keep her promise) 4 annas of revenue for five years; on this understanding the Killah was given over to her charge, but the same misrule recurred. She complained against the manager, the manager retorted by urging that he was a mere cypher and could do nothing, as the Ranee and her brothers would govern the country themselves. She refused to remit the promised revenue to the Khurpoor ryots, they complained of her maltreating them and plundering their houses, in short the whole country was again against her, and I therefore deemed it absolutely necessary to deprive her of the management, and assume temporary charge of the Estate, which was placed under Mr. Repton's management; I further assigned to the Ranee an allowance for the support of herself and family. The Government approved of these

arrangements and directed that the Killah should not be given up to the minor's management until Government were satisfied of his capability.

In 1843, the Rajah attained his majority, and was with the permission of Government, conveyed in Secretary's letter, No. 301, of the 17th of April, placed in possession of the Killah. He is a sharp intelligent youth, can read and write his native tongue, and I hoped that learning experience from the past he would do justice to the charge, but these hopes have not been realized. He soon became a tool in the hands of his servants, who influenced his conduct by their evil councils, and administered to his worst passions. He last year permitted a common prostitute to interfere in the conduct of affairs, the people complained against her acts, and matters became so bad that I was compelled to interpose, and to direct her removal from the Killah. To the disgrace of his house he has not yet provided the means for his brother and grown up sisters getting married.

(Signed)      A. J. MOFFATT MILLS,  
*Commissioner.*

(No. 168.)

FROM HENRY RICKETTS, ESQUIRE,  
COMMISSIONER OF CUTTACK AND SUPERINTENDENT  
OF THE TRIBUTARY MEHALS,

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
*In the Judicial Department,*

FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

*Judicial.* I have the honor of submitting, for the consideration and orders of the Hon'ble the Deputy Governor, a report on the Tributary Mehals of Cuttack ; my object being the introduction of some defined system of management throughout the extensive tract of country they comprise.

2nd. To save the trouble of reference, I will narrate as briefly as I can the history of the management of these Mehals since we took possession of the Province.

3rd. They were excluded from the operation of the Regulations as being "a Jungle Country inhabited by a rude and uncivilized race of people." Sections 36 and 37, Regulation XII. of 1805 contain a list of them which is copied beneath.

4th. I have added the amount of Peshcush paid—the estimated number of armed Paiks which it is supposed each Chief can bring into the field—the estimated extent, and the revenues of each Raj. The extent is taken from old papers in the Office but it is overrated at least one-half. The aggregate area does not exceed 20,000 square miles.

5th. The two last mentioned Mehals were transferred to this Office in 1837, from the jurisdiction of the Governor General's Agent on the South-West Frontier.

| Names of Mehals.          | Tribute paid to Government. |    |    |   | Estimated rent roll as received by the Rajah including all cesses and exactions. | Supposed Area in Square Miles. | Number of armed Paiks which can be brought into the Field. | Remarks.                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           |                             |    |    |   |                                                                                  |                                |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Mohurbunje, .....         | 1,001                       | 0  | 0  | 0 | 50,000                                                                           | 15,000                         | 8,000                                                      | <p>The area is taken from the old papers in the Office, but I believe it to be greatly exaggerated. The aggregate area cannot much exceed 20,000 Square Miles.</p> |
| Keonjhur, .....           | 2,790                       | 11 | 3  | 1 | 30,000                                                                           | 22,000                         | 15,000                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Nilghur, .....            | 5,617                       | 6  | 9  | 2 | 16,000                                                                           | 400                            | 550                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dekanal, .....            | 4,780                       | 5  | 15 | 2 | 50,000                                                                           | 10,000                         | 7,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Angool, .....             | 1,550                       | 6  | 4  | 0 | 25,000                                                                           | 1,250                          | 4,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Duspullah Joormool, ..... | 620                         | 2  | 9  | 2 | 20,000                                                                           | 500                            | 500                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Talchier, .....           | 974                         | 10 | 16 | 3 | 12,000                                                                           | 250                            | 700                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Hindole, .....            | 516                         | 12 | 14 | 0 | 9,000                                                                            | 200                            | 500                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Nursingpore, .....        | 1,364                       | 8  | 15 | 1 | 12,000                                                                           | 250                            | 1,500                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tigereah, .....           | 826                         | 13 | 9  | 2 | 8,000                                                                            | 150                            | 400                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Barumba, .....            | 1,310                       | 9  | 10 | 1 | 12,000                                                                           | 150                            | 1,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Kundiapparrah, .....      | 3,948                       | 5  | 2  | 2 | 20,000                                                                           | 300                            | 2,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Nyaghur, .....            | 5,179                       | 14 | 16 | 2 | 35,000                                                                           | 1,900                          | 6,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Runpoor, .....            | 1,313                       | 4  | 6  | 1 | 15,000                                                                           | 200                            | 1,500                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Autgurh, .....            | 6,848                       | 8  | 7  | 0 | 15,000                                                                           | 200                            | 1,500                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Banki, .....              | 4,162                       | 4  | 7  | 2 | 30,000                                                                           | 750                            | 2,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Boad, .....               | 750                         | 0  | 0  | 0 | 25,000                                                                           | 700                            | 2,000                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Autmullick, .....         | 450                         | 0  | 0  | 0 | 8,000                                                                            | 200                            | 500                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                           | 43,905                      | 12 | 18 | 0 | 3,91,000                                                                         | 54,100                         | 54,650                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                    |

6th. The records of this Office contain no information respecting

these Mehals worth recording previous to 1814, when the Office of Superintendent was established and the late Mr. Oswald selected for the situation, which was considered one of high importance. In the margin\* I quote an Extract from the orders of Government, dated the 10th February 1814, to show that the Tributary Mehals were exempted from the operation of the Regulations on the grounds of expediency

\* Para. 5. The Governor General in Council does not understand that such exemption was founded on any claims which the Proprietors of those Estates have to the exercise of independent authority. On the contrary his Lordship in Council apprehends that it originated entirely from the opinion which was entertained of the uncivilized manners of the Zemindars themselves and of the inhabitants generally of those places combined with the nature of the country which was supposed to consist for the most part of Hills and Jungles.

Para. 6. From this short review of the subject it follows that the continuance of the abovementioned Estates on their present footing is a mere question of expediency, and that there is not any thing in the nature of our connexion with the Proprietors of them, which should preclude us from placing them under the ordinary jurisdiction of the Civil and Criminal Courts should it be ever thought advisable to do so.

only, and not from any admission of the claims of the Rajahs to exercise independent authority.

7th. The Superintendent was directed to endeavour "to establish such a control over the conduct of the zemindars as may prevent the commission of crimes and outrages," and he was informed that upon the information and suggestions received from him would depend the policy to be pursued with respect to the Mehals.

8th. Mr. Impey shortly after succeeded Mr. Oswald, and he could have had charge of the Office but a few months, when on the 8th July 1814, he submitted to Government a report suggesting that the Regulations should be introduced with certain modifications throughout the Gurjats. The orders on this report, dated the 26th July 1814, say that "the Vice President in Council was not averse to the extension of the general Regulations to the Tributary Mehals, but that before such a measure could be determined much more minute information than had been furnished was necessary."

9th. On the 31st December 1814, the Superintendent again proposed having written Laws, and submitted the draft of a Regulation. In the Orders, dated the 21st February 1815, are found these sentiments: The Vice President in Council considered it to be probable that the ignorance and prejudices of the Proprietors of some of the Tributary Mehals might induce them to oppose the introduction of the Regulations, and to resist all such Orders of the Court as they might conceive to be discreditable to their personal rank or calculated to weaken their influence and authority in their respective Estates, and it could not be

expected that such resistance would in every instance be subdued without the employment of a Military Force. The adoption of coercive measures in the Tributary Mehals would not, under any circumstances, be resorted to by Government without great reluctance. The Vice President in Council would be disposed to introduce the Criminal Regulations without further delay if he were assured that they could be duly carried into execution without the necessity of employing any military force for that purpose."

10th. In 1815 again the propriety of extending the Regulations was canvassed, and a draft was actually approved by the Court of Nizamut Adawlut, but in submitting the papers to Government it appears the third Judge of the Court, Mr. Stewart, forwarded a minute expressing his doubts whether the country was prepared for such a change. Regulation XI. of 1816, containing rules for the conduct of suits respecting claims to the rights of succession in these Mehals was passed, but the introduction of Criminal Laws was abandoned.

\* \* \* \* \*

12th. On the 21st June 1816, the Secretary to Government tells the Superintendent "the Office of Superintendent was constituted expressly to supply in a certain degree the want of more regular Establishments. It is not the object of Government to weaken the influence of the Rajahs of the Tributary Mehals over their peasantry, and still less to interfere in the details or usages of the country. It is sufficient that you should adopt such prudent and proper measures as may tend to prevent the commission of acts of violence and outrage by the interposition of your influence, and by encouraging amicable adjustment of disputes when circumstances will admit of an interference of that nature. Were the duties of your office really incapable of being conducted on the principles above stated it would follow that the office itself was useless and might consequently be abolished. In that case the only remaining alternative would be either to extend the Regulations to the Tributary Mehals or to leave the proprietors to their own guidance and to the exercise of the same authority which they exercised previously to the appointment of a Superintendent for their control."

13th. I should mention that while the question of the introduction of the Regulations was under the consideration of Government, the Nyaghur Rajah presented a petition to Government complaining that the introduction of Thannahs and Police rules would be opposed to former orders of Government and contrary to the Perwannahs and the verbal

assurances of the first\* Commissioners, but the evidence of these allegations produced by the Rajah proves that the only promise made to him was that his peshcush should be fixed in perpetuity.

\* See the orders of Government dated the 7th August 1816.

14th. Thus the management of the Mehals was left entirely to the Rajahs, controlled by the undefined authority of the Superintendent. The Rajah of Dekanal having been guilty of cruelty and suspected of murder, was fined 8,000 rupees, the orders of Government saying that the most suitable mode of punishment was fine, by which the dignity of Government would be asserted. The Rajah of Mohurbunje having been accused of the murder of one of his Surburakars, Juggernath Boya, the Commissioners proposed that he should be compelled to provide for the widow of the deceased though they did not consider the crime proved against him. The orders of Government say "it is impossible to assume a charge of which the accused has been acquitted as a ground of compelling payment of a proposed allowance which could only be regarded as a fine. If the zemindar be deemed guilty *the punishment should of course be much heavier.*"

15th. Though the power of the Rajahs has never been defined, and the Government has declared that it was not desirable to weaken the influence of the Rajahs over their peasantry, all these proceedings go to show that the Chiefs were not supposed to have the power of life and death, and that they were considered amenable not only when they committed murder, but when guilty of cruelty.

16th. During the years 1817-18-19 and 20, the Tributary Mehals attracted little notice. Doubtless the wish of the Rajahs is to be left in undisturbed possession of their unknown tracts, and in the exercise of their undefined powers; they have nothing to gain by any change, and except when their prejudices are interfered with, or their duty to Government comes in contact with their ideas of honor or the duties of clan-ship, they are tractable subjects.

17th. In 1821, the Rajah of Keonjhur having behaved ill by obstructing the passage of some troops through his country, and the Rajah of Nyaghur having afforded an asylum to, and protected the rebel Jugbundoo Bydeadhur, on the 11th July and 7th September 1821, the Superintendent Mr. Blunt, in his reports bearing those dates, represented†

† 11th July, para. ——— that he was not aware in what manner an offender could be legally proceeded against

and brought to punishment, that he disapproved of the rules which had been in 1815 proposed by Mr. Impey, and submitted rules which he pro-

posed to introduce to prevent the perpetration of crimes of magnitude with impunity, and to provide for the speedy and regular trial of persons accused of such offences.

18th. These letters were considered by the Government, on the 17th December 1821, and a resolution recorded, para. 51, of which says "His Excellency in Council wholly concurs with the Commissioner in opinion as to the expediency of providing formally for the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Tributary Estates exempt from the operation of the Regulations. The drafts of rules submitted by the Commissioner are generally approved, and will be enacted into a Regulation with such modifications as are judged necessary under the title of a Regulation for the Administration of Criminal Justice in certain Hill Estates of Cuttack, exempt from the operations of the general laws."

19th. Though the last paragraph of the Resolution says, that the Government was compelled to dissent from some of the propositions submitted by Mr. Blunt, and to pause in the adoption of others until further information shall be obtained, no further information respecting the Tributary Mehals was called for.

20th. Unfortunately the proposed rules respecting the Tributary Mehals, instead of forming a separate draft, were mixed up with other proposed rules connected with the administration of that part of the Province which is subject to the Regulations. No reply to the objections and requisitions contained in the Resolutions of the 17th December was submitted; with the disapproved rules for the management of the plains, the approved rules for the management of the hills were forgotten.

21st. Again the project of legislating for the Tributary Mehals was abandoned. It would appear that the Superintendents disappointed at their suggestions not having been received with unqualified approbation, ceased to feel that interest in the welfare of the Mehals which induced them to bring forward a plan for their better Government, and were content because some parts of their schemes were disapproved to throw the whole overboard. The Government depending on the local Officer, allowed the subject to rest when he ceased to agitate. The power and authority of the Chiefs are still undefined, and there are no rules whatever for bringing to trial persons

accused of offences in a tract comprising an area of nearly 20,000 square miles and containing in all probability a million and a half of inhabitants.\*

\* The population of Balasore is 285 to a square mile, say the population in the Gurjats is only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of that, we have 14,20,000 in 20,000 square miles.



22nd. Cases having occurred of Rajahs being put on their trial for murder, they cannot be considered independent and beyond the reach of punishment; but one of them having ordered a thief to be killed without any trial, and orders in the case having been purposely avoided because the Rajah pleaded that he had always exercised the power under the Native Government and never had received any orders from the British Government depriving him of it, their authority to kill has been virtually recognized.

23rd. If a chief is not amenable for having ordered the death of a man merely *accused of theft*, I submit he could not consistently be punished for ordering the execution of a person under other circumstances. In fact, neither the Government, the Superintendent, nor the Rajahs themselves can say at this moment whether any authority exists with the power of life and death within the Gurjats or not !

24th. Mr. Blunt, in his letter dated the 7th September 1821, para. 166, says, " but I cannot suppose it is the intention of Government to allow these Zemindars to exercise the power of life and death or to abstain from all interference in case of murder committed within their estates."

25th. In 1829, Mr. Pakenham writes—" I trust that the Vice President in Council will approve of my not having instituted the inquiry as reported instead of rejecting the application, as the latter course would have amounted to an acknowledgment of the power of life and death being vested in the Rajahs of these estates and their dependants, which although no law restraining the exercise of it be in existence, the Government, I presume, would be slow to recognize openly."

26th. The answer to this letter dated the 24th March 1829, in fact recognizes the power of life and death as being vested in the Rajahs.

Para. 3 says, " Previous to adopting your suggestions for prohibiting the Rajahs whose estates are exempted from the operation of the Regulations from exercising the power of life and death over their own subjects, the Vice President in Council would be glad to receive your opinion on the instructions which in that case it would be proper to communicate to them for their guidance in the event of their deeming any criminal subject to their authority to be deserving of death."

27th. As far as I can learn that letter was never answered.

28th. On the 31st January 1831, the Superintendent in his letter to the Secretary to Government, para. 8, says,—" I am not aware that the extent of their (the Rajahs) power and independence as regards acts of this

description (murder) has been decided. It is my opinion that none of these chieftains consider themselves vested with authority over the lives even of their own subjects, and still less over those strangers who may frequent their territories either as travellers or for purposes of trade."

29th. As mentioned in para. 22, the Rajah of Nyaghur had exercised the authority, claimed it as his right, and the Government hesitated to prohibit its exercise, till the Superintendent had reported what course of proceeding he would recommend when criminals should be deserving of death for crimes committed in the Gurjats.

30th. There is another point connected with this case which may conveniently be mentioned in this place. The orders of Government, dated the 8th March 1831, para. 6, say "you are requested to bear in mind that the imposition of pecuniary fines for offences committed by the Gurjat Chiefs is not generally expedient," while as mentioned in para. 14, former orders ruled that adverting to the rank which the proprietors of these Mehals maintained within their own Estates the most suitable mode of punishment is fine !

31st. Inconsistency of policy and practice having prevailed in cases of the greatest magnitude, I need not say that in minor affairs each Superintendent appears to have acted according to rules of his own, indeed there being no written rules he could hardly have done otherwise. The mode of proceeding followed by his immediate predecessors could be learnt only by examining cases, and their decisions would be found inconsistent with the decisions of others equally entitled to respect.

32nd. My attention was particularly directed to the evil of this absence of all rules and all uniformity and consistency of proceeding by, in the same month, one Rajah decapitating some thieves, or rather I should say supposed thieves, considering himself justified, whilst another Rajah released a person who confessed himself a murderer because he doubted his being empowered to kill him, and was unwilling to feed him.

33rd. I respectfully submit this is a state of things which should not be allowed to exist any longer. The Revenue we draw from the people, though not in the aggregate considerable, is in some Estates as large a portion of the gross proceeds as we receive from many of the Mogulbun-dee Mehals, the inhabitants of which are fully protected ; and I think we are bound to establish something approaching to systematic rule, or to forego the tribute, and receiving a trifling annual nuzzur§ in acknowledgment of the

§ Say 100 rupees from each.

supremacy of the British Government, declare the Rajahs to possess each within his territories sovereign authority : the liability to punishment in cases of aggression on a neighbouring Raj continuing as at present, otherwise there would be constant fights among them and serious embarrassment might arise.

34th. In point of fact, this would differ little from the system which actually exists, for, unchecked as they are by the presence of any one within their territories who would not risk his all by giving information injurious to his chief, we know but very little of their proceedings, the only information worthy of any confidence being obtained from travellers and Beoparries.

35th. These Rajahs may occasionally be guilty of acts of cruelty and oppression, but my information by no means proves them to be in their general conduct to their subjects either oppressive or cruel. There is a strong feeling of attachment for their chiefs in the inhabitants of all the Mehals ; though the individual may be unworthy of the respect or regard of his subjects, still for the honor of the Raj they will adhere to him.

36th. Collision, or misunderstanding with the Rajahs is always to be studiously avoided. The dignity of the Government must be preserved at any cost, but the greatest circumspection should be exercised so as to prevent the occurrence of a misunderstanding in which the dignity of the Government may be involved. The greater the authority of the Rajahs the fewer will be the subjects calling for interference, and the fewer the subjects for interference, the fewer will be the opportunities for the occurrence of misunderstandings.

37th. Could the sense of the inhabitants be taken, I think the majority would vote for vesting power in the Rajahs rather than the introduction of Government Police Officers. They appear content to live under the dominion of these despots, for such they are, and in most of the parts I have seen the villages wear quite as much the appearance of comfort and security as in the Mogulbundee.

38th. The abandonment of the peshcush and investiture of each Rajah with unlimited authority within his own Raj, might be introduced as a temporary system only revocable at pleasure, it being distinctly declared and recorded that expediency alone having been consulted in increasing their authority so would it be again decreased or altogether annulled should expediency call for it.

39th. I do not anticipate approval of this suggestion, neither can I desire that it should be approved. Under any system there can be little

hope of considerable improvement in civilization reaching the inhabitants of the Tributary Mehals but at a very distant period : if they are abandoned entirely to the management of their Chiefs, whose desire is to prevent all innovations on ancient customs, to exclude all strangers from the country and to live as their fathers have done for generations in the depths of their forests, centuries hence they will be as savage as they are now.

40th. I have mentioned the scheme of making the Rajahs independent and irresponsible as one alternative by which we may escape from the discreditable position we now occupy with respect to the Gurjat Mehals. I now proceed to the other alternative, increased interference, and the establishment of a defined system of management !

41st. The Regulation proposed by Mr. Impey, in 1816, which with modifications was so near becoming a law, must, I think, have signally failed. The Rajahs were to have been deprived of all power and authority. It is my belief many of them would have given up their possessions altogether rather than have submitted to the degradation.

42nd. The Kundaits, Paiks and all Officers of Police were to have been under the Superintendent and by him appointed, punished and dismissed. In Keonjhur alone there are said to be 15,000 Paiks, in the 18 Mehals 54,650 !

43rd. It was proposed to prohibit the Rajahs from inflicting any punishment whatever : all parties charged with criminal offences were to have been sent to the Superintendent. In Bhamanghattee and its Cole Peers, in Duspullah and its Khond Mals, and in two or three other wild regions this rule could not have been enforced without the constant presence of a considerable military force. In all other places also without the cordial co-operation of the Rajahs it must have failed and instead of co-operation the most steadfast resistance if not by force, by systematic evasion, would have been encountered.

44th. Interference between the Chiefs and their subjects and limitation of the control of the lord over the property of his serfs were not part of the system proposed, and without that, what chance could there have been of crimes becoming known, if the Rajahs desired to conceal them. While for any offence against his wishes the Rajah could oust the offender from his land, confiscate his property, and drive him out of his country, was it likely that the influence of the Superintendent would supercede the influence of the Rajah ?

45th. When Mr. Impey, the Superintendent, desired to march through Keonjhur, and when Mr. Stockwell, the Superintendent, desired to advance

into Bhamanghattee, they were stopped by the Sirdars of the outposts pending the orders of their Chief. Before this sense of service and allegiance can be destroyed, the Rajahs and their families must be removed, and besides them we must also banish some of the hereditary Sirdars whose influence within the tracts subject to their jurisdiction is not less than the influence exercised by their Chiefs over them.

46th. The Secretary to Government in his letter to the Superintendent dated 10th August 1821 says, "Interference should be chiefly confined to matters of a political nature, to the suppression of feuds and animosities prevailing between the Rajahs of adjoining Mehals, or between the members of their families or between the Rajahs and their subordinates' territories, to the correction of systematic oppression, violence and cruelty practised by any of the Rajahs or by their officers towards the inhabitants, to the cognizance of any apparent gross violation by them of their duties of allegiance and subordination and generally to important points which if not attended to might tend to violent and general outrage and confusion or to contempt of the paramount authority of the British Government."

"His Lordship in Council is of opinion that any attempt to deprive the Rajahs of their general control which they have hitherto exercised over the inhabitants of their respective Estates, to introduce a regular system of Police, or to take into our hands the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice within the Tributary Mehals would not be advantageous to the people, but the Superintendent might perhaps be advantageously invested with a discretionary authority to take cognizance of very heinous or atrocious crimes committed within the Tributary Mehals, in instances involving questions of a political nature and in which he might have reason to apprehend that substantial justice had not been or would not be administered under the authority of the local Chieftains."

47th. Mr. Blunt appears to have had these instructions before him when he framed the draft of the Regulation which was generally approved. Sections 1 to 4 of the draft relate to the Mogulbundee part of the province. The Tributary Mehals rules are in Sections 6, 7 and 8. They authorize the Superintendent to take cognizance of any crime of enormity committed within the Gurjat Mehals, to cause the attendance of the accused either by the instrumentality of the Rajahs or by other means, to try the offenders, and if guilty, punish them, also to take cognizance of accusations of murder against a Rajah and bring him to trial under certain rules: the punishment of death is excluded.

48th. It appears to me that these rules would merely legalize the mode of proceeding which has already been followed while all doubtful points are left doubtful still. The Superintendent is authorized to take cognizance under *certain circumstances* of crimes of enormity, but the authority of the Rajahs in crimes of enormity, which the Superintendent under the limited authority vested in him could not take cognizance of, is not defined. The Rajahs are declared amenable in cases of murder only which is a declaration of non-liability in all other cases. The punishment in murder, is confiscation of property and imprisonment, which of course bars under *any circumstances* the punishment of death!

49th. Annexed A are the penal rules I propose, they are made as simple and concise as possible; B is the form of proceeding to be observed in bringing parties to trial.

50th. The principles which I have adopted are these:—

Not to concede to the Rajahs the power of life and death either with respect to foreigners or their own subjects. To make them punishable for murder, homicide, mutilation or other gross cruelty.

With this safeguard against great misuse of power, to make them Magistrates with very extensive powers in their own territories.

To provide for the punishment of all offenders in a manner suitable to the condition of the Mehals.

To pave the way gradually for the introduction of trial by punchayet.

In some of the Gurjat Mehals we might without much difficulty introduce the Regulations immediately, while in others it seems now unlikely that they ever will be prepared for such a change.

51st. In Attghur, Banki, Kundiapparrah and other Mehals west of Cuttack there would be no more difficulty after a few months in carrying into effect the laws of the Mogulbundee than is experienced in other Hill Estates of the Province now subject to the Regulations, but in the remote parts of Mohurbunje, Keonjhur, Angool, Duspullah, Boad and other jungle countries far removed from the seat of authority, and inhabited by Coles, Khonds and other wild races, the time when they will be prepared to receive such a system as that we have established in the plains must be very remote. Indeed the rude system which I propose trying will be too far advanced for those regions, the Rajahs themselves have not sufficient control over the inhabitants of the wildest parts of their domains to carry the rules proposed into effect, if they desired to do so—I have consequently introduced a clause providing for the exclusion of such tracts as Khond Mals and Cole Peers from the operation of the rules.

52nd. It will be observed that the arrangement of rules to guide the proceedings is made to suit the arrangement of the Penal Rules. I have appended notes to each Section explanatory of my intentions and views. I will not therefore add to the length of this report, by entering into detailed explanation here.

53rd. C is a set of miscellaneous rules connected with the Administration of Civil Justice.

54th. It appears to me very unadvisable to interfere with the authority now exercised by the Rajahs as Civil Judges in their own territories. They hear and summarily adjust all claims made by any one of their subjects against another. The truth is arrived at by confronting the parties. A creditor is seldom exorbitant or oppressive, a debtor seldom endeavours to avoid his liabilities by resort to evasion or deceit. The proceedings held by the Rajah are not committed to writing; they are devoid of all form and regularity, but they are effectual; in this country documents, such as bonds, receipts, releases, &c., are never attested by witnesses, though in borrowing and lending, written engagements are interchanged. In the form of bond most made use of the eight Deotas are named as witnesses of the transaction.

55th. Rules are required for regulating the course of proceeding when claims shall be preferred against a Rajah, and when claims shall be brought forward by an inhabitant of one Mehal against an inhabitant of another Mehal.

56th. Former Superintendents have received petitions from merchants and others against Rajahs of the Gurjat Mehals for the price of goods delivered, the amount of loans, &c., but much embarrassment has oftentimes been occasioned in consequence. The orders issued to pay the amount claimed have been in some cases disobeyed if not in form, in substance, and the Superintendent being aware that should evasion be persisted in, he would not be supported in a recommendation that payment should be compelled by force, has abstained from following up his order that the debt should be liquidated.

57th. These incomplete and ineffectual proceedings are fraught with mischief. The Rajahs, in the hope that payment will not be compelled, make purchases from which they would abstain were they conscious the Superintendent had authority to enforce payment, and would exercise it. While on the other hand the Merchants uncertain whether in the event of the Rajahs withholding payment an application to the Superintendent will receive attention, in order to cover the risk, ask cent. per cent. more



for their goods than they would demand were transactions less insecure, so that practically both parties suffer.

58th. Averse to interfering without having authority to persist, I have refused to attend to such claims, but this mode of proceeding is also open to serious objections. Merchants and others having claims against the Rajahs, if interference on their behalf is refused, cannot with justice be prevented from endeavouring to realize their own dues : violent assaults and bloodshed would be occasioned by strict adherence to the non-interference plan.

59th. On the other hand much embarrassment may be created by formally declaring these Rajahs amenable to this Office for claims preferred against them. It would be mockery to admit a suit without execution of the decree that might be passed was guaranteed, and the execution of decrees might occasionally be resisted and ultimately occasion the necessity of employing a military force.

60th. Another objection to interference is that most of the transactions are negotiated at the Rajahs' residences, and the only evidence procurable would be that of their own subjects ; the enquiries consequently would be very unsatisfactory and embarrassing.

61st. Under all circumstances I have proposed in the rules that the Rajahs shall be held amenable in all transactions that may be registered in the Superintendent's Office. Only transactions of importance will be registered, and the Registry will be good evidence without the necessity of examining partial witnesses. I have provided that execution of decrees in cases admitted under the rules shall be carried into effect as far as attachment of the Mehal. I would not under any circumstances allow of sales.

62nd. It appears necessary also to provide for the adjudication of claims preferred by the inhabitants of one Mehal against the inhabitants of another Mehal, and the rule proposed is founded on the custom now prevalent which is as follows.

63rd. The creditor applies to his Chief, who sends him with a Vakeel to the Rajah in whose territory the debtor resides, with a request that he will cause the claim to be adjusted. This request is generally complied with. Should the request be slighted the creditor's chief issues orders that any property belonging to the inhabitants of the Mehal in which the debtor lives, found within his territory shall be attached. This leads to the issue of letters of "marque" by the opposite party also and a feud ensues. I have provided that a creditor bringing a certificate from his own Chief of the debt being due, and that application has been made to



the debtor's chief in vain, the claim shall be attended to by the Superintendent.

64th. To these rules also explanatory notes are appended.

65th. I feel painfully conscious how ill-qualified I am to frame laws for the management of a million and a half of people, but the move to lead ultimately to reform in the administration of the Gurjat Mehals must originate from this office. I have seen more of the extensive country, subject to this jurisdiction than any one who has held the situation of Superintendent. My successors may be as much better qualified as many of my predecessors were to do justice to such a task as that I have ventured to attempt, but, in all probability, many years will elapse before a Superintendent shall be possessed of the local information which from extraordinary opportunities, a long residence in the province, and a natural inclination to hold intercourse with the people I have acquired. I know my influence to be great, and I should like to make use of it in the introduction of some system of rule.

66th. The plans I have suggested may be crude and unsuited to the end proposed, but I feel assured the Government will allow it is high time an attempt should be made to introduce some system other than the uncontrolled will of these jungle chiefs. I respectfully recommend that the rules proposed should be sent to Captain Wilkinson, the Governor General's Agent on the South-West Frontier, for his opinion as to their applicability to the state of things in the Gurjats; he has had much experience in the management of equally wild Mehals, and his judgment is excellent.

67th. Should the Court of Nizamut Adawlut be consulted, I beg to suggest it should be respecting the penal rules only: accustomed as the Judges are to great precision, and regularity in proceedings, it is quite impossible any system applicable to the state of things in these Mehals should meet with their approbation.

68th. In order to carry these rules, or such revised rules as may be approved into early and effective execution, I think it will be necessary at first to appoint a Government Agent in each Mehal, paid by the State, to be removed whenever the Rajah or his head Native officer shall sufficiently understand the system to be introduced without assistance effectually to superintend it. I would have no promise made about eventual removal, it may possibly be necessary that an Agent should be permanently established at the capital of each Mehal. The salaries of these Agents should I think be in the large Mehals 50, in the smaller

20 rupees per mensem each. Their business will be to see that the Civil and Penal Rules are carried into execution, to furnish monthly or quarterly returns of the heinous offences committed and the punishments inflicted, and such other information as the Superintendent may from time to time require.

69th. Of course cases will occur of these Agents being paid by the Rajahs and rendered useless, they should not be allowed to remain in one Mehal above 2 or 3 years.

70th. I propose that the Magistrate of Cuttack should be appointed an Ex-Officio Assistant to the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals in order that he may communicate direct with the Rajahs whose territories adjoin his district. Under the orders of Government the Magistrates of Poorae and Balasore are Ex-Officio Assistants and conduct the duties connected with the Mehals on their respective frontiers.

71st. The greatest objection to the adoption of any of my propositions is the increased labor which will be entailed on the Superintendent of Tributary Mehals. It may be necessary to aid him by the appointment of an Assistant to be vested with such authority as the Superintendent may from time to time think fit to confide to him in any particular Mehal or in all the Mehals. Thus assisted the Superintendent may be able effectually to superintend all the increased duties which the reform proposed will occasion.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY RICKETTS,  
*Superintendent Tributary Mehals.*

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,  
TRIBUTARY MEHALS,  
*The 21st January, 1839.* }

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NOTE.—The proposed Penal and Civil Rules alluded to in this Report, not having been passed are not printed. They proved, however, the foundation of an improved system of administration since introduced.